Australian issues from a 'slightly different angle'

Journalism student Douglas Ferguson swaps Canberra's press gallery for a Washington DC US internship a Capitol opportunity

Synthesisers to be given local twang

Student to put on show with musical jacket

Writing graduate sponsored to take script to screen

Good odds for winning script

JANUARY 2006

Why Stacey Durrell wanted to be on council

University sees in Chinese New Year

Dance leads Year of the Dog celebrations

Designs on Olympic success

Top immigration officials arrive for course

Action man watches over stars and our city

Wanted - vocalists to perform Les Miserables

Study beckons after 32 years at work

FEBRUARY 2006

Standing room only on surfing safari

'One-stop guide to going series looks at Margi Bohm's spare time

The Kayaking coach boasts high degree of water expertise

Can you solve the pachyderm picture puzzle?

Students march in Sydney Mardi Gras

Chancellor's success built on study, sacrifices, support

Staff member speaks out in Coeliac Awareness Week

Feeling ill after eating is 'just not normal'

Students hop into graduate job fair

Essential academic skills shared

Library trains students in research tools of the trade

Japanese students miss Australian food, drink, friends

Leadership skills promoted to female staff

In Harmony Week, film to ask 'how green is our campus?'

Cross-country skier shares Turin experiences

UC makes a splash with twin water announcements

'Welcome Reception for this year

Review - Mass Appeal

eWater launched in fine style

Musical highlights at ceremony for immigration officials

Course for Chinese students develops quality auditors

Many flowers of University community come together

Celebrations a 'model of harmony' according to project coordinator

Gecko study reignites battle of the sexes

Warm welcome back to campus for world-class athletes

'One-stop-shop' for tax, customs training under new deal

Teaching terrors uncovered in stage fright research

Former VC to urge greater investment in knowledge

Alumnus married in Young by Spiritual Meeting Place coordinator

Uni chaplain helps former student tie the knot

Innovative alumni return to support business

Seminar explore paradoxical tolerance

Benign whiteness falls short of equality

Journalist joins entrepreneurial alumni for innovation forum

Host with the most (hair) keeps ICAN in business

Residents give charity a head start

New year celebrated in colourful fashion

UC - CIT collaboration a model for the sector

Centre Stage

Students (and Monitor editor) get close shave for good cause

Trailblazing Chinese cohort en route to UC degrees

Talk maps out changing financial landscape

Brisbane to Sydney walk in memory of student

Save money on overdue charges by donating food to Salvos

Former bookshop manager tells celebrity's life story

Semester two access scholarships available

Completing library survey nets lucky student an iPod

Native speakers only an iChat away for linguists

Why 20 Indonesians arrived on campus this month

21st century storytelling showcased as contest evolves

Charitable double whammy for preschool

Design graduates dominate industry awards

Visiting fellow makes academic writing and creativity add up

Mathematician has the formula for creative storytelling

High profile graduates get together

Environment day brought to life as kids teach kids

Uni project results to be presented at international conference

As season begins, University investigates safer skiing

Applications open for travel scholarship

Nurse wins prize for helping students get experience

University's tourism employment study a world first

Dean gets mention in capital music tome

JUNE 2006

AusAid students get skills to take home and build local wealth

Virologist unlocks secrets of the immune system

Research a step towards hepatitis C drug treatments

Friendships boost chance of success, students told

Sharon Bell shares highlights from her remarkable CV

Staff get together for snack and a chat and to support Walk with a Rose

Conference promotes high quality science teaching

International authority welcomed to NIG

Singaporean diplomat shares good governance insights

Canada invites campus to pay a visit

Meet the man at the wheel on the charity trail

Dramatic facelift as Students' Association adjusts to VSU

University launches new online face

Refreshing website gives University competitive edge

Graduation July 2006

News and feature stories Jan - July 2006
About Monitor Online

Welcome to the online version of Monitor, the newspaper of the University of Canberra. Previously, Monitor was a 12-page tabloid newspaper published about twice a month during semester. The more timeless features were also posted on the website.

Student and academic demand and a desire and need to provide information and features more often and with more flexible sizes and media led to the development of Monitor Online in 2005.

The website is updated weekly during term time and fortnightly during the holidays.

The savings on printing and distribution are now dedicated to producing a twice-yearly magazine.

What if I want a printed version of a page?

If you prefer to read a story in hard copy, you'll like the fact that we've formatted this site to print on A4 width paper.

For example, in Internet Explorer, click File -> Print. If the whole width of page does not print, check the default page setup (File -> Page Setup) and reduce the margins. Test it out on page preview.

What's with the logo?

For enquiring minds, our lizard logo, is based on the Monitor (Lizard) or common name for a genus of lizards, called goannas including the largest living lizard, the Komodo dragon.

According to Microsoft Encarta, monitors live in tropical and desert areas throughout Africa, in Asia from Arabia to southern China and Malaysia, and in the East Indies and Australia. There are about 30 species in the genus, ranging from 20 cm to 3 m (8 in to 10 ft) in length. They all have a long, forked tongue. They can engulf large prey and swallowing it whole. Check out this multimedia link for more.

Monitor is produced by UC Communications
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Last Updated on 12 January 2006
Graduation July 2006

This mid-year graduation is be a celebration of firsts:

- First cohorts in pharmacy, physiotherapy and customs
- First ceremony for new Chancellor Ingrid Moses
- First time Master of Professional English graduates from the Beijing Police will attend

New on Monitor

- Hands on experience for first cohort of physio students
- Physio graduate set to work alongside lecturers
- Physio swaps beach for warm environment in capital
- Pharmacists bound for successful careers
- Full-time job and study pays off for pharmacy graduate
- Pharmacy graduate finds skills in demand
- Retired orienteer follows route to rewarding career
- Division's research comes of age at graduation
- Mother's master's motivates son
- Olympic communication boosted by UC grads
- Communication graduate sets sights on independence

For further information about Monitor Online, contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au
Refreshing website gives University competitive edge

Edward O'Daly

25 July 2006: The University has a new face online - several in fact.

A new-look website will go live on Monday featuring familiar faces of students you might recognise from the University's latest brochures.

The new-look homepage, which goes live on Monday

The new site features plenty of 'dynamic' content, including a new homepage image each time you visit.

The style of the website reflects the wider revamp of the University's look, including the new logo and photography, but the change goes beyond a simple 'rebranding' exercise.

The new website is more user-friendly than ever before, designed to help visitors find the information they want without needing any knowledge of the University's complex administrative structure.

"We're concentrating on the user experience with the website," online program manager David Formica said.

"Estimates suggest up to 96 per cent of first contacts with universities are made via the website, so we have to meet our customers' needs."

This means “up-to-date, fresh and relevant” information is easier to find and different sections of the website are targeted to different audiences, with new dedicated staff and student homepages running parallel to the broader 'marketing' function of the website.

Web designer Anthony Bond said the University was ahead of its competitors with the launch of a redesigned, user-focused website.

He also encouraged staff to give the online team feedback on the site, which would continue to evolve and improve.

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au
Dramatic facelift as Students' Association adjusts to VSU

Jason Tozer

25 July 2006: The University of Canberra Student Association (UCSA) re-opened its doors to students boasting refurbished facilities and revised services available to its members.

UCSA president Marc Emerson said the opening was a symbol that the association was not going anywhere under voluntary student unionism (VSU) and would be here in the future with student support.

"Large investment"

"I'm not going to deny that it is a large investment but the alternative is to sit here with an ever decreasing pool of money offering low quality services until we die," he said.

"So we decided to spend the money now while we have it, upgrade the service to make it something everyone will want and hopefully we will attract members from that.

"This opening has been the culmination of work for everybody on the UCSA committee ... to create a place where students can relax, be themselves and veg out, but yet continue the strong advocacy and protection of students rights that the student association has been well known for over three decades."

ACT education minister Andrew Barr, who officially opened the refurbished premises and joined as 'friend of the association' member, said student organisations like the UCSA have a valuable role in university life.

"We can never underestimate the importance of the student welfare provisions and the whole range of other services that student associations provide."

Right direction

Mr Barr said the UCSA had taken a step in the right direction in response to VSU.

"The reality is that they do need to innovate a little in regard to keeping members and providing services students want."

The new facilities have been combined with services the association prides itself on including 10 cent per page printing, free internet access, cheap water and sandwiches and free student advocacy.

Facilities will be available only to members, with the exception of the cheap water and sandwiches and the student advocacy, charged at an hourly rate of $7.25 for non-members.
The driving force behind Walk with a Rose

Edward O'Daly

25 July 2006: In case a very tall blonde woman walking 1400km wasn't attention-grabbing enough, a large white bus, complete with red flashing lights, outside speakers and siren has been travelling with Walk with a Rose.

Behind the wheel of this charitable charabanc is ActewAGL finance officer Brian Queripel.

While volunteers on the walk, in memory of University of Canberra student Clea Rose, who died last year after being hit by a car in Civic, come and go, Mr Queripel is in for the long haul.

Mr Queripel had already heard about the walk from a friend and when ActewAGL, one of the walk's sponsors, invited its staff to volunteer to help out, he seized the opportunity.

"When I heard about it I thought it's something I have got to be involved in. It was something I really wanted to do," he said.

Having driven trucks in the field for ActewAGL earlier in his career, he was ideally qualified to join the team and his employer was happy to match his four weeks' leave to give him eight weeks on the road.

"I had no idea what to expect. I've never been involved in anything like this before, but it's been fantastic. Everyday is different and you're always having a laugh. People have been fantastic, nothing's ever too much trouble."

Among the surprises on the walk has been the bus itself, which beneath its distinctive exterior boasts luxurious seating, fridges and a large dining table, where the team sit down to a daily roadside breakfast.

"I'd expected a minibus, but this is ideal for what we are doing. The best thing about it is it attracts attention."

"I'm going to miss it heaps."
University's teaching and learning applauded by institute

Edward O'Daly
25 July 2006

The University has won four citations for the quality of its learning and teaching with professional staff as well as academics honoured for their contribution.

The citations will be formally presented at a Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education function in Sydney next month.

Ms Coggins, Mr Formica and Mr Lines were rare non-academic winners of a Carrick citation

An overhaul of the system for supporting students from the Canberra Institute of Technology and other colleges with their transition to the University, earned a citation for student services director Bruce Lines, online program manager David Formica and secretary of the University Council Jenny Coggins.

Mr Lines said the award was a "nice recognition" of the support provided to University's academic functions by its general staff.

"Following the implementation of the project for which the Citation was awarded the University of Canberra can be confident that it is one of the leaders in the sector when it comes to providing pathways from vocational study to university."

Mr Formica said: "It's a reinforcement of the close relationship between CIT and the University and shows how three support areas of the University pull together on a process focussed on the student benefit."

The trio led a project to streamline the process by which credit is awarded for studies under articulation agreements, giving students a head start in their University course, by taking into account previous study.

The new system incorporates a comprehensive database of diploma courses and the agreed amount of credit they are worth. Credit is automatically added to a student's records when they start at the University, assuring a smooth transition into their degree.

Head of the University's Centre for the Enhancement of Learning, Teaching and Scholarship, Yoni Ryan said the University's winning groupings of staff were unusual.

"The awards are a substantial recognition of the University of Canberra's reputation of excellence in supporting learning. They highlight the achievements of particular staff, including the professional staff, who work to provide the best learning environment for UC students," Professor Ryan added.

The University's Carrick Citation winners:

- Dr Christine Kilham, Professor Tony Shaddock, Dr Joe Murik, Mr Tony Spinks, Mr Gary Woolley
  For promoting lifelong learning and reflective practice via graduate opportunities for networking, information exchange, research and community engagement for professional teachers assisting students with disabilities.

- A/Professor Anne Campbell
  For motivating transnational postgraduate students and providing them with the skills and experience needed to become independent learners.

- Mr Bruce Lines, Ms Jenny Coggins, Mr David Formica
  For innovation and collaboration across three work units, in enhancing student learning by supporting articulation pathways between University of Canberra and Canberra Institute of Technology.

- Dr Nancy FitzSimmons
  For the development of inquiry-based learning in introductory biology in response to the needs of diverse students.

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au

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Economic 'mixing pot' exposes child disadvantage

Jacquelyn Curtis

25 July 2006: The National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM) at the University of Canberra has responded to recent debate on child welfare in undertaking research on regional poverty and disadvantage among Australian children.

At a recent presentation to the Canberra Economic Society, NATSEM director, Ann Harding, gave an overview of the research, which will be presented in Finland next month at the 29th General Conference of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth.

Professor Harding explained the study had developed a 'multi-dimensional measure of disadvantage in children', which looked at factors beyond the traditional 'income only' measures.

This type of research reflects an overseas trend towards considering the occupation, skill level, education and other characteristics of parents and families which affect the experiences of children. These factors were used to create a 'social exclusion measure' to analyse disadvantage.

'Mixing pot'

Described by Professor Harding as an "econometric mixing pot", the social exclusion measure was created with data from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing and can be used to identify regions within Australia where children face the highest risks of being socially excluded.

For example, the study showed that approximately one in three Tasmanian children belonged to the most disadvantaged group of children in Australia. Conversely, approximately a quarter of children living in the Australian Capital Territory were among the most advantaged children in Australia.

Another striking finding was uncovered when the rate of social inclusion within states was compared with the population of children in each state. For example, New South Wales is home to 34 per cent of children in Australia, but only 17.7 per cent of NSW children are in the most disadvantaged social exclusion decile. In comparison, children living in Queensland comprise 20 per cent of the total child population -- but an alarming 49 per cent of them fall into the most disadvantaged group.

'Extreme differences'

"There were quite extreme differences within states," she said.

Professor Harding indicated future research projects would further explore the results and look at change over time.

"One of the key things I'm interested in is whether the spatially concentrated gaps between 'rich' and 'poor' suburbs have narrowed or widened," Professor Harding said.
Canada invites campus to pay a visit

Edward O'Daly

25 July 2006: Canada came to the concourse last week as the University celebrated its own 'All Canada Day'.

Scheduled as close as term would allow to Canada's national day on 1 July the event celebrated all things Canadian, including education and research.

“Every day is Canada Day at the University of Canberra,” said study abroad and exchange manager Kate Smart, who organised the event.

The High Commission of Canada’s academic relations manager Tony McKittrick, intern Rebecca Barnes and Canadian exchange student Stacey Ivits were all on hand to extol the virtues of the North American nation - the number two destination for Australian exchange students.

Ms Ivits, from Ontario, said she was settling in to Australia after two weeks here and encouraged Australians to visit her home.

“It's a beautiful country - it's similar to Australia, but we do have our differences,” she said.

“You will feel at home and at the same time discover new things every day - that's how I feel here.”
Singaporean diplomat shares good governance insights

Jacquelyn Curtis

25 July 2006: A high level diplomat from Singapore visited the university last month to discuss governance issues with the National Institute of Governance (NIG).

Director of NIG Stephen Bartos met Yeoh Chee Yan, the deputy secretary (Development) of the Public Service Division in the Prime Minister's Office and also dean of Civil Service College in Singapore.

In her dual roles, Ms Yan is an authoritative source on governance issues. The meeting allowed a discussion of governance practices in Singapore and Australia.

"A wide range of topics were discussed including public sector governance issues in Australia," Professor Bartos said.

"In particular, we discussed how to effectively deal with a whole range of government issues."

The NIG, which is located in the Business, Law and Information Sciences (BLIS) Division is a multidisciplinary institution dedicated to research and education into corporate governance across public and private sectors.
Conference promotes high quality science teaching

Gaye Morrison

**25 July 2006**: University of Canberra academics Leah Moore and Jim Woolnough were the organisers of the 37th annual Australasian Science Education Research Association (ASERA) conference, held recently in Canberra.

Many of the participants were university academics who train classroom teachers, although some teachers also attended to share the results of their applied research in the classroom. The conference sessions were geared towards the way that different approaches to teaching can enhance the student experience and outcomes and the way that science teaching can connect with the everyday world.

Dr Woolnough was delighted the conference attracted around 116 delegates from all around the world and with the high quality of the papers presented.

President of ASERA, David Treagust of Curtin University of Technology believes that the strong participatory features of the ASERA conference stimulate new ideas in the participants.

"ASERA is about producing higher quality science education, and even at our conferences we are very keen to ensure that participants are fully engaged. Our sessions are 40 minutes in duration - half of this time is taken with the presentation and the other half is for questions and comments. This structure allows debate and enriches the experience for everyone in the room," Professor Treagust said.

Professor Treagust saw the growing shortage of science teachers as a challenge for society, together with the quality of some primary science teaching.

"It can be difficult for primary teachers to develop and sustain a science curriculum, particularly as some primary teachers lack confidence to teach science. The preparation and training of primary school teachers is vital for strong science skills in students learning more specialist science in high school," he said.
Teas raise $650 for charity walk in student's memory

Edward O'Daly

20 July 2006: The University has raised more than $650 for Walk with a Rose through a series of morning teas.

Staff got together for tea, cake and a chat and to hear about the charity walk from members of the UC Communications team in the Library and in buildings one, three, eleven and five.

Amy Banson praised the University community for supporting the walk

Photo: Edward O'Daly

The University is one of the sponsors of Walk with a Rose, which is in memory of University student Clea Rose who died after being hit by a car in Civic last year. The 1400km trek aims to raise awareness and money for acquired brain injury.

Amy Banson, who gave first aid to Ms Rose after the incident, is walking the route and will arrive in Canberra at the end of the month.

"It's great to know that people at home are thinking about us and doing what they can to support the walk," Ms Banson said.

"People are holding morning teas or raffles or sausage sizzles in their workplaces, but we don't even know until we hear about the money they've raised. It blows us away."

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au
Apply for funding to further careers, women urged

Gaye Morrison

18 July 2006: The University of Canberra continued its commitment to providing leadership development opportunities for women employed at the University, at the Women's Forum held on Wednesday in the library.

It was standing room only at the Forum, when Pro Vice-Chancellor of Health, Design and Science Sue Thomas launched the second round of applications for the Women's Career Directions Program and Sharon Bell, the recently arrived Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University shared her career journey.

The Women's Career Directions Program was set-up to provide opportunities for women to advance their careers and move into leadership roles. The program in Semester 2 has a budget of $20,000, and this money will be spread amongst a number of applicants.

Professor Thomas urged women across the University from all disciplines and backgrounds to consider applying for funds to undertake an activity which supports the aims of the project. This may be attending a conference, leadership training program, shadowing a senior staff member or career coaching. Joint applications are also welcome.

Leonie-Ruth Acland is currently the project officer looking after the program and she advised women interested in applying to consider a program that will help with career goals and be a benefit to the University.

Find out what Professor Bell had to say:

DVC's guide to creating a career based on passion
DVC’s guide to creating a career based on passion

Gaye Morrison

18 July 2006: Participants at the Women’s Forum were entertained and motivated by the University’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Sharon Bell when she took to the floor with tales and advice from her extraordinary career.

Professor Bell completed her undergraduate honours degree in geography, but her doctoral program in anthropology saw her travel to Sri Lanka for two years of field work. She began making documentary films during this period and when she completed her doctorate she continued as a filmmaker and academic.

Professor Bell gave a frank assessment of her career - mistakes, opportunities and passion. She believes that passion is an element that many women bring into their careers and it is an element that brings great reward. Her passion and lifelong relationship with Sri Lanka was very evident throughout her talk. She also has a passion for the transformative nature of education.

Professor Bell commenced her academic life at a time when universities and society generally were changing rapidly. Her experiences in many institutions, particularly in the early years of her career mirror the experiences many women have had in traditional and male-dominated workplaces.

As a mother and a film maker/academic Professor Bell also talked about the pressures that many women face in trying to balance many competing demands.

Sharon Bell’s career tips:

- Have a clear understanding of the expectations of any role or position in which one is placed (Professor Bell has observed that if we see where we fit in, we can negotiate the environment successfully).
- Connect with a group of people whom you trust and who trust you.
- Have courage and be a risk-taker.
- Look for a mentor (research shows successful women have often been strongly mentored and have learnt from the experiences and successes of others).
- Realise we don’t have to achieve everything we want in life at the same time (there are many stages of life and often many opportunities to achieve our goals).
- Develop strategies to put what you do in perspective.
Centre Stage: Centre for Research in Public Sector Management

What do you do?

We act as a focus for research and discussion about the public sector and its management and development.

We undertake research and disseminate the results through a comprehensive and well-attended program of seminars, journal articles and books. We are particularly conscious of the need to disseminate our research to professionals in the public sector.

Since 1983 we’ve published a series of books about each commonwealth government administration. The eighth in the series, *Howard's Second and Third Governments* edited by Chris Aulich and Roger Wettenhall, was published in 2005 and has been a commercial and critical success.

Why is it important?

The public sector spends billions of dollars a year. Our research can help to better understand how this sector is managed, contributing to better delivery of services or better value for money.

What’s new?

We’ve just accepted an invitation to carry out the Australian component of a nine-country study into the performance of autonomous public agencies - those with a degree of independence. We’ll be looking at the balance between autonomy and control and how this contributes to performance: do those with more autonomy perform better than those on a tight leash?

Who’s in charge?

Associate Professor Chris Aulich
Chancellor to advise government on regional policy

Edward O'Daly

18 July 2006: The Chancellor has been appointed to advise the government on policies affecting regional Australia.

Ingrid Moses is one of 12 prominent women from all over Australia appointed to the Third Regional Women's Advisory Council, which will provide advice from a female perspective on issues including education, business and regional development.

Professor Moses, who was also on the second council, which wound up last year, said she was "very pleased indeed" to be returning for a three-year term and hoped the third council would be able to address "unfinished business", such as the under representation of women on boards. Education would continue to be a priority issue, she said.

"I was appointed to the second council because of my knowledge of higher education issues in rural and regional Australia, and I continue to be concerned about equitable access to higher education of Australians of any age, and about opportunities and achievements at school of young Australians living in the country," she said.

She said this time round the council's role would be to provide feedback to the government, via the Minister for Transport and Regional Services Warren Truss, on the effectiveness of policies in regional, rural and remote areas, and on the appropriateness of policies to address regional issues.

It also had a responsibility to alert the government to emerging issues in regional areas, Professor Moses explained.

The council met for the first time last month and is currently drawing up a work plan for the next three years.
Battle of bands blasts into the bar

Jacquelyn Curtis


The Jim Beam National Campus Band Comp, which hits the UCU Bar on 2 August, is the competition to enter if you want to be a rock star.

Last year's ACT winners the Fallen
Photo: Ben Brillante

The NCBC has been launching the careers of bands for more than 20 years. Before Eskimo Joe had Black Fingernails, Red Wine they won the NCBC. Before Jebediah mastered Braxton Hicks they got hot and sweaty winning NCBC. The Vines’ triumph at the NCBC allowed them to Get Free and become one of Australia’s biggest rock exports.

Last year’s national winner, The Vasco Era put the $8000 and studio time to good use; producing an EP and featuring in the line-up for The Big Day Out, Falls Festival and Byron Blues and Roots Festival.

According to bar manager Mike Kadinski, the NCBC provides bands with opportunity and exposure.

“The comp gives bands the chance to promote themselves and improve their chances of succeeding in the music industry,” he said.

As well as the incentive provided by the major prizes, participating bands will also gain valuable experience in performing and the opportunity to meet industry contacts.

For 2005 ACT state winners, The Fallen, winning was a thrill. The band received $1000, shoes and jeans; as well as the chance to strut their stuff in the national final.

Guitarist, University communication student Phil Whitman said the turnout of the ACT final was “massive”.

“Of course we wanted to win because the NCBC is the band competition in Australia - but you can only do your best.”

The first heat at the UCU bar will be held 2 August, with the final rock-off to be staged on 23 August.
Friendships boost chance of success, students told

Edward O'Daly

12 July 2006: With research suggesting students who make four new friends at University are more likely to succeed their studies, the message at last week’s commencement ceremony was clear: new students should get out and mingle.

A few hours after the ceremony students were on the concourse enjoying lunch, live music and the chance to get to know each other.

Addressing the ceremony, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Sharon Bell encouraged students to make new friends and added there was no need for anyone to feel isolated as the University had “a lot of experience” in helping people through any issues they might face.

“You are joining a university that prides itself on being student-centred and prides itself on a high standard of learning and teaching,” Professor Bell said.

Dean of students, Heather Prior encouraged students to get to know each other, not to be afraid to ask for help, to plan ahead for the first weeks and to get a campus map.

“Don’t rely on logic to get around,” she said, pointing out her office in building 20 was sandwiched between buildings five and nine.
Research a step towards hepatitis C drug treatments

Jacquelyn Curtis

18 July 2006: A University researcher outlined steps made towards a more effective treatment for the hepatitis C virus at a seminar last week.

Virologist Michael Frese's presentation about his work on the virus, which affects more than 170 million people worldwide and is a major cause of liver disease, the John Curtin School of Medical Research on Thursday was first given as part of the University's Gadi lecture series earlier this year.

His research focuses on 'interferons', a part of the body's first line of defence against viruses, used in the treatment of the hepatitis C virus.

When a cell is attacked by a virus, it releases interferons, which warn neighbouring cells of the danger, causing them to produce a set virus-fighting proteins. These proteins buy the immune system valuable time as it works out the nature of the threat and how best to combat it.

In the case of the hepatitis C, Dr Frese explained, an artificially-manufactured interferon, interferon-alpha, is given to patients, stimulating infected liver cells to produce antiviral proteins.

Unfortunately the treatment causes a number of side effects, including headaches, fatigue, vomiting and depression, and it is not always effective.

"In 50 per cent of cases the interferon drug fails, so there is plenty of room for improvement," he said.

Dr Frese has found that a different interferon, interferon-gamma, released in the body by T-cells and other immune system enforcers, also inhibits hepatitis C virus multiplication.

Furthermore, he has evidence that interferon-alpha and -gamma act via different antiviral proteins, which suggests different interferons may be combined in a more potent antiviral defence in hepatitis C patients.

He hopes this work will also lead to a greater understanding of how the mysterious process of warding off the hepatitis C virus works. This should make treatments more effective or at least save the 50 per cent of patients who won't benefit from the treatment from going through the expensive and uncomfortable process for nothing.

"To get information on why it works and why it doesn't work is important so patients aren't being treated unsuccessfully and suffering unnecessary side effects," Dr Frese said.
Healthy technology pioneered by winning students

Edward O’Daly

6 July 2006

The University has taken first and second prize in a national technology competition and will represent Australia at the World Cup of programming in India later this year.

The winning team of Master of IT students won their travel expenses to the Imagine Cup Finals in Delhi in August for developing a 'patient monitoring and alerting system' (PMAS) that allows patients to monitor their own condition with updates sent directly to their doctor's phone or computer. The School of Information Sciences and Engineering (ISE) has already had enquiries from businesses keen to commercialise the product.

The second-placed team came up with a 'ambulance service management system' (ASMS) to transmit details of a patient's condition on the move from an ambulance to a hospital emergency room, saving time and potentially lives.

Both projects were in line the competition's theme: 'Imagine a world where technology enables us to live healthier lives'.

Winning team member Jack Cheng explained the system could be used by patients with heart disease to monitor their blood pressure. The records would be available online both to the patient and their doctor and could warn the patient if their blood pressure was higher than a limit set by their doctor and even send an alert to the doctor or paramedics.

Another application could be if there was another outbreak of SARS or a similar contagious disease. A patient could stay quarantined at home, with doctors kept updated of their condition and only having to intervene in an emergency.

Mr Cheng said the project had boosted his confidence by proving he could use his skills to realise his ideas.

Team-mate Xiaoming Liu said the project helped them to understand the latest technology and increased their career opportunities.

The input of their mentors had been key in winning the competition, third member Sen Li added.

ISE head Dharmendra Sharma said the students' performance in the competition showed the University of Canberra was a national leader in IT.

"We have a growing international and national reputation for excellence in IT and these projects connect with our research strengths in medical informatics - applying IT to medicine," Professor Sharma said.

"Our courses teach more than just theory, our students learn to develop practical solutions to real-world needs - in this case, award-winning solutions."

The teams:

First place: PMAS
Jack Cheng
Sen Li
Xiaoming Liu
Mentor: Dr Wanli Ma

Second place: ASMS
Noor Parvez
Hui Cheng
Yashvardian Negi
Rishi Maurya
Mentor: Dr Dat Tran

Sen Li, Jack Cheng and Xiaoming Liu are bound for India after their win

Photo: Michelle Khoo

The second-placed team came up with a 'ambulance service management system' (ASMS) to transmit details of a patient's condition on the move from an ambulance to a hospital emergency room, saving time and potentially lives.

Both projects were in line the competition's theme: 'Imagine a world where technology enables us to live healthier lives'.

Winning team member Jack Cheng explained the system could be used by patients with heart disease to monitor their blood pressure. The records would be available online both to the patient and their doctor and could warn the patient if their blood pressure was higher than a limit set by their doctor and even send an alert to the doctor or paramedics.

Another application could be if there was another outbreak of SARS or a similar contagious disease. A patient could stay quarantined at home, with doctors kept updated of their condition and only having to intervene in an emergency.

Mr Cheng said the project had boosted his confidence by proving he could use his skills to realise his ideas.

Team-mate Xiaoming Liu said the project helped them to understand the latest technology and increased their career opportunities.

The input of their mentors had been key in winning the competition, third member Sen Li added.

ISE head Dharmendra Sharma said the students’ performance in the competition showed the University of Canberra was a national leader in IT.

"We have a growing international and national reputation for excellence in IT and these projects connect with our research strengths in medical informatics - applying IT to medicine," Professor Sharma said.

"Our courses teach more than just theory, our students learn to develop practical solutions to real-world needs - in this case, award-winning solutions."

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au

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Charity walk puts fun (and Wallabadah) on the map

Edward O’Daly spent 24 hours on the road with charity expedition Walk with a Rose – eating, drinking, meeting yodellers and even squeezing in a bit of walking.

6 July 2006: Walk with a Rose isn’t just about walking. It’s about raising awareness and raising money for acquired brain injury. It’s also about having fun.

Yodelling legend Rex Dallas performs with Amy Banson

I had the opportunity to experience all aspects of it when I joined the team for a night in Scone, a walk to Aberdeen and an expedition to Wallabadah.

Wallabadah was the first place the team had begun talking about with reminiscences of an arrival in Scone the previous afternoon and after our morning’s walk we boarded the team bus to head in the wrong direction, back towards Scone in Wallabadah.

The walk, in memory of University of Canberra student Clea Rose, who died after being hit by a car in Scone, followed a 1400km route from Scone to Broke in Broke. The path, described by University of Canberra alumnus Camilla Rose, who died after being hit by a car in 2001, to the pub at Wallabadah.

I was certainly very grateful to share so many interesting lives during my brief stint with Walk with a Rose. I was much more successful in chatting to our entertainer for the afternoon, Australia’s leading yodeller Rex Dallas. I hadn’t realised there were any yodellers in Australia, so it was great to have this revelation followed up by a meeting with one of the leaders in the field.

The event, a sheep on a spit plus live music and a raffle, had been promoted on local radio and the cosy bar soon filled up, with many of the regulars already sporting Walk with a Rose shirts and wristbands. It was obvious how much they’d embraced the charity walk.

The pub regulars and walking team were all on first name terms – team member and former Canberra pub manager Justo Warner even called me by name for the first time.

A chance to taste beer in a real country pub, to chat with real country folk, to meet a real professional yodeller. I’d been singing in the Mandalay Hotel for about 12 minutes when a local – a bearded old man, wizened and hunched from years of hard work came up to me to strike up a conversation. Here was my ‘untouchable’ moment, the ‘out of my league’ moment.

A chance to taste beer in a real country pub, to chat with real country folk, to meet a real professional yodeller.

I couldn’t understand a word he said.

I was much more successful in chatting to our entertainer for the afternoon, Australia’s leading yodeller Rex Dallas. I hadn’t realised there were any yodellers in Australia, so it was great to have this revelation followed up by a meeting with one of the leaders in the field.

Rex’s involvement in Walk with a Rose is characteristic of the way people have got behind the project.

At a social reception in Tamworth, Amy was advised if there were any yodellers in Australia, so it was great to have this revelation followed up by a meeting with one of the leaders in the field.

I.Clearly delighted to be taught to yodel by one of the greats.

In addition to giving up his time to come to Wallabadah and sing for free, Rex donated proceeds from CD sales to the cause.

I couldn’t understand a word he said.

In addition to giving up his time to come to Wallabadah and sing for free, his donated proceeds from CD sales to the cause.

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Raiders media opportunity too good to pass up

Jason Tozer

6 July 2006: Canberra Raiders media manager Ben Pollack is working in the job of his dreams after only graduating from the University of Canberra last year.

Mr Pollack has been a big Raiders fan his entire life but credits his time at the University of Canberra, as much as his knowledge of the team, for landing the job.

“I have been lucky to land such a high profile position after university, and I credit a lot of where I am to the sports media degree and in particular my sports journalism lecturer Cathy Reid,” he said.

He landed the job with the NRL club after impressing management while on work experience last year.

“I was given the opportunity to do some work experience with the Raiders through the then media manager Chris Wilson, as part of my ‘special sport studies’ subject,” he said.

“Then while working at The Queanbeyan Age at the end of last year I was contacted by Raiders general manager Don Furner, who offered me an interview and eventually the job.”

A typical day with the Raiders varies for Mr Pollack depending on the schedule of the team.

Catering for print and broadcast journalists he organises press conferences, player interviews, game-day preparations and keeps the team's website www.raiders.com.au up to date with reports and columns by the coach and players.

Having just finished organising the team's 25-year celebrations, working with The Canberra Times to release a lift-out of its history and players, Mr Pollack is now working on a 25-year DVD with third-year sports media students from the University.

“So far we are conducting interviews and sifting through old footage hoping to complete it by the end of the season.”

When you ask Mr Pollack what the best part of his job is, the answer is simple.

“Being able to work for the team I have always supported.

“I have always been a keen Raiders fan, and the whole staff from the reception, through to marketing, management, players and coaches are a pleasure to work alongside.”
Students off to Tahiti for UNESCO youth forum

Kaddie Pass

6 July 2006: Two first year community education students are packing their bags and heading to Tahiti later this month for the inaugural UNESCO Pacific Youth Festival.

Laura Green and Lara Johnston are among 11 young Australians who have been selected by the Youth Network of the Australian National Commission for UNESCO to represent Australia at the forum.

Ms Johnston, who undertook a traineeship with the Police Citizens' Youth Club after studying at Lake Tuggeranong College, said the festival will be particularly relevant to her future plans of working with youth at risk.

Ms Johnston said she was excited about taking part in the forum that will contribute to a UNESCO Charter on youth issues.

"It's good to know that we will be part of that," she said.

The students will join 1400 other young people from the Pacific region to talk about community issues that affect them, including sustainable development, active citizenship, equality, peace and good governance.

The students, who will receive credit towards their degree for participating in the Festival, will present a report on the Pacific Youth Forum when they return.

Ms Green praised her lecturers for their positive feedback and support and for the flexibility of the course in recognising their initiative.

"The flexibility of the course has allowed us to use our initiative in achieving what we want and it's nice to know there's support for that," she said.

"This not only gives us a chance to talk about the issues that we've experienced affecting communities across Australia, but it's also a chance to identify and bring back what those issues are from listening to others," Ms Green added.

The UNESCO Pacific Youth Festival will be held from 17-22 July.
Centre Stage:
The Healthpact Research Centre for Health Promotion and Wellbeing

What do you do?

We investigate ways to help people live healthier lives. Our researchers work with the community to find innovative ways to improve wellbeing - it's a complex problem and it needs sophisticated solutions.

Why is it important?

Without action there is a very real possibility this generation of children will not outlive their parents. Obesity, diabetes and heart problems threaten to become an epidemic among our young people and education and applied research are keys for dealing with these issues.

Our aging population (particularly the growing 'old old' group of over-85s) needs to be kept healthy and happy for as long as possible otherwise they will swallow all of our health resources.

We have a deliberate focus in our research on the social determinants of health too.

What's new?

We've been given external funding for a range of research projects including one to look at the effectiveness of measures to help smokers in disadvantaged groups kick the habit and a study of roadside drug testing.

We're also funding several new research projects including a look at the role leisure plays in helping women in rural communities grow old healthily and an evaluation of a parenting program.

Who's in charge?

Professor Paul Morrison
Architects seed idea for city's future

Jacquelyn Curtis

6 July 2006. A collaborative project between University of Canberra architecture students and Canberra Contemporary Art Space could inspire the future direction of Canberra's West Civic art and cultural precinct.

Thirty fourth-year architecture students undertook a hypothetical project to create and exhibit concept designs for new premises for the Canberra Contemporary Art Space (CCAS).

Their models were exhibited at Manuka CCAS 21-25 June and garnered attention from the general public, members of the art and design communities and ACT planning and public works agencies.

For the past 19 years CCAS has resided within the heritage listed Gorman House Arts Centre, but as it approaches its 20-year anniversary in 2007 the project serves to develop ideas for the future expansion of CCAS in response to its growing reputation and demand for its 'artist in residency' programs.

According to architecture lecturer, Ann Cleary, the students' work aims to "seed an idea" for purpose built premises for CCAS, within the growing Civic West Arts Precinct.

The students' projects incorporated gallery, exhibition and studio spaces, on site artist accommodation, as well as café and bookshop and ranged from "subtle and poetic responses to contemporary cutting edge explorations", according to Ms Cleary.

"Some were quiet, sensitive insertions and others were bold, iconic designs," she said.

As well as providing the opportunity for the students to demonstrate their design skills and liaise with a 'real' client; the collaboration also allowed students to "engage with a 'real' urban context and put forward concepts that addressed the broader concerns of inner city revitalisation".

"The partnership between the University, the design profession and ACT Government agencies and institutions such as CCAS not only supports the students' studies but importantly contributes to the ongoing development of ideas and notions for Canberra's future," Ms Cleary said.

"The exhibition gave the students and the public the chance to see what might be possible.

"It was great to see their work make an impression and get a good response."

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au

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University to arm Defence with academic skills

Edward O'Daly

6 July 2006: The University of Canberra has become the first university to sign up to a new program that will give Australian Defence personnel academic recognition for their military service, qualifications and training.

A letter of understanding between the University and the Department of Defence was signed by Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching) John Dearn and Commodore Russ Baker at a meeting hosted by the University's Professional Development Unit last month.

Commodore Baker and Professor Dearn sign up to the deal
Photo: Kimberly Douglas

Professor Dearn said helping the ADF meet the changing demands on its staff was an "exciting opportunity".

Commodore Baker explained University study would help develop a more flexible workforce as well as recognising the rigorous promotion procedures and training defence personnel go through.

"This provides a means to attract and retain our people in uniform at all levels," he added.
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University boosts Indonesian regional economies

Edward O’ Daly

27 June 2006: Regional economies across Indonesia are likely to receive a significant boost thanks to a course underway at the University.

Twenty senior public servants from Indonesia are studying a specialist AusAid-funded course in regional economic development run by the University’s Centre for Developing Cities.

"We can get information and experience here to make a better Indonesian future," student Faisal Mapawa from the Kupang Province Education and Training Board, said.

Mr Mapawa said he would share the skills he learned with colleagues on his return.

Centre for Developing Cities executive officer Aine Dowling said the course incorporated training from industry experts and leading academics, plus field trips to see regional development professionals at work. A key component of the course is developing a six-month action plan that will see them put what they have learned into practice on their return.

"They have to come up with something that is appropriate to their region and realistic and use the skills we’ve given them to make it happen," she said.

Student Rizka Sangadji, from the Maluku Province Regional Development Planning Board, said before coming to Canberra she had heard the Centre’s courses were “very useful” from colleagues who had studied at the University in the past.

"I want to get new knowledge and learn new ways to deal with the problems I face in my job," she added.

In addition to economic development training, the course includes units on change management, governance and gender, which are compulsory across a number of AusAid courses for Indonesian public servants in Australia.

Ms Sangadji and Mr Mapawa are enjoying their stay in Canberra

Photo: Michelle Khoo
Football fever funds fair trade

Jacquelyn Curtis

20 June 2006: While the Socceroos rewrite football history at the FIFA World Cup, football players from Canberra’s universities have cashed in on the ‘world game’ to raise awareness about fair trade.

While it was not quite the same showdown as Australia versus Brazil, a charity soccer match staged the Sunday afternoon before the Socceroos big clash served a good cause and provided an appropriate precursor to the much anticipated contest.

The match was held at the ANU fields and students from both universities, including players from University of Canberra Pumas men and women divisions taking part.

While the players attempted to emulate Cahill's goal scoring or the attacking tactics of Kewell and Bresciano on field; off-field the aim was to educate spectators about the importance of fair trade. The match ball was provided by fair trade manufacturer Etiko.

"It was a really good match and the players were very skilled indeed," said organiser Mim Kelly.

"While everyone is going soccer crazy it is a chance for people to learn about the importance of fair trade products.

"The aim is that people become aware that their choice in the supermarket or stores really does make a difference. The choice between brands means the difference of a fair wage or forcing children in underdeveloped countries to have to work."

Unlike their beer-drinking counterparts in Germany, supporters at the match warmed up with fair trade coffee as they watched the University of Canberra team fight defiantly but ultimately be defeated by the Fair Trade Coffee Cats 5-2.

But the overall winners will be the people who benefit from the sale of fair trade products.
VC's music strikes a chord with jazz author

Edward O'Daly

20 June 2006: The Vice-Chancellor is among the luminaries of the Canberra jazz scene acknowledged in a new book about jazz in the capital.

A chapter in A Cool Capital: The Canberra Jazz Scene 1925-2005 is devoted to Roger Dean, who, in addition to being known for experimental music, is an accomplished classical and jazz musician.

Author John Sharpe told Monitor Professor Dean's music was "about as far as you can go" and remain within the "broad definition" of jazz, but no book on jazz in the capital could be complete without including the Vice-Chancellor.

"He lives here, he has a big reputation overseas and he is prominent in his particular field," Mr Sharpe, a jazz trombonist and archivist, said.

"He does concerts periodically and plays with prominent Australian musicians."

Professor Dean said it was nice to be acknowledged for the breadth of his musical background - classical, mainstream and modern jazz and other experimental music.

"Being given two or three pages was quite flattering," he added.
No waiting for jobs as cafés cook up vacancies

Edward O'Daly

20 June 2006: If you're a chef or a waiter you should have no trouble finding work in Canberra, according the results of a unique University of Canberra job vacancy survey.

However the summer months are not a good time to be looking for work in tourism and hospitality in the capital, the groundbreaking research found.

Conducted over a year and half from May 2004 to December 2005 the survey broke jobs in the tourism and hospitality industry into 19 categories and researchers recorded advertisements in The Canberra Times and on the web.

Tourism economist Trevor Mules, who oversaw the project and will present the findings at a conference in New Zealand later this year, said proving this unique research was possible was as important as the results.

"I haven't seen this done anywhere in the world, we've shown it can be done," he said.

"With a small amount of funding we'd like to make this an ongoing project and provide regular updates to industry and government. The data will become even more valuable over time as trends begin to emerge."

Similar data exists, such as the ANZ Job Vacancy Series and information collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, but Adjunct Professor Mules said in-depth research on the tourism job market was a world first.

The work was started by two third year tourism students, with a research assistant taking over when the pair graduated last July. Care had to be taken to ensure jobs advertised more than once were counted as just a single vacancy.

The 19 categories broke jobs into different tourism/hospitality sectors, including clubs, casinos, cafes, accommodation and government, and different roles within the sectors.

Adjunct Professor Mules said three categories: waiter, chef and other café staff stood out as having a booming job market. The quiet months of December and January saw a slow down in recruitment as Parliamentarians, public servants and other Canberrans hit the coast for their summer holidays.
Real-world examples bring economics text to life

Edward O'Daly

**20 June 2006:** Economics needn't be a mystery to newcomers to the subject thanks to a new book by a University of Canberra economist.

Phil Lewis is the principal author behind the fourth edition of *Issues, Indicators and Ideas: A Guide to the Australian Economy*, a uniquely Australia-focussed, applied and novice-friendly text.

First published in 1994, the book neatly fills a gap left by conventional economics textbooks, introducing the discipline to first-year undergraduates, MBA students and lay readers.

"I originally wrote it because I wanted a book to go with a course I was teaching, but nearly all the textbooks were theory and I wanted to teach a course that was applied from the start," Professor Lewis said.

"This book fits nicely in with the University's approach, in that it equips students to apply economics to real-life situations."

In addition to explaining the basic principles of economics, such as supply and demand, and the nuts and bolts of the Australian economic system, the book has evolved to take into account Australia's changing political and financial environment.

"In earlier editions we looked at how the government might go about privatising electricity and water. In this latest edition we have a chapter on the environment."
Linguists tune in as TV of the world piped to computers

Jason Tozer

20 June 2006: More than 20 different television stations in 11 languages are available to University staff and students to view on their computers thanks to developments in an engineering trial run by the Division of Communication and Education (ComEdu).

With the introduction of digital television, the University of Canberra television network (UCTV) now has the ability to stream live Australian free-to-air channels as well as foreign language channels the University receives via satellite.

A glimpse into the future of television is available on campus

Manager of IT and media services for the ComEdu, James Steele, said UCTV is designed to provide language students with worldwide media access.

"It began with the professor of languages and second language education, Andrew Lian, who thought it would be a great idea for students studying foreign languages to be able to watch live television from the countries that spoke the language," Mr Steele said.

"Not only for aiding in learning the language but for cultural reasons as well."

UCTV also allows students from overseas to keep up to date with events at home by providing access to live television from their countries.

The University is also providing the international television channels to staff and students at universities and institutions around Australia using the GrangeNet network.

However, Australian free-to-air channels are only available to University students and staff for copyright reasons.

Similarly a digital video recording system, which is currently in development, will only be available to members of the University of Canberra community, who will have to login, according to service delivery manager George Bray.

"We need to be seen to protect the content rights of the providers," he said.

This is done by recording only one copy of a program, which is not downloadable but available to view by UC staff and students over the network.
Applications open for travel scholarship

Edward O'Daly

20 June 2006: Adventurous students looking for an overseas experience are now able to apply for the scholarship set up in memory of University of Canberra student Clea Rose.

Ms Rose died of injuries sustained after she was hit by a car in Civic last year. She had recently returned from exchange studies in the US.

Applications for the $2000 funding can be made via the scholarships website.

Information about overseas study opportunities and support is also available from the study abroad and exchange team.

Paperwork to launch the scholarship being signed by Ms Rose's father, deputy HR director Ross Dunn and Vice-Chancellor Roger Dean earlier this month
Photo: Michelle Khoo

Related story:
Clea's spirit honoured in travel scholarship
Researcher hits slopes on trail of ski accidents, injuries

Edward O'Daly

14 June 2006: It was as Nadine Cooper was recovering in hospital from her third ski-related broken bone that she realised skiing injuries could be worthy of detailed research.

Ms Cooper is now a University of Canberra research student investigating the causes of ski injuries among young people and ways of preventing them.

"There is already evidence that accidents among kids happen just after they have left their parents and gone off with their friends," she said.

"I want to look at whether certain types of skier are more prone to accidents and when accidents are likely to happen."

A former ski instructor, Ms Cooper has previously worked on research projects in Austria and the United States examining injuries to snowboarders following the introduction of terrain parks to ski resorts. Her own catalogue of skiing war wounds includes three broken wrists and numerous bruises and sprains.

For her research she will use psychological testing to identify risk takers among members of schools' skiing teams and collect data about who is injured and the circumstances surrounding their accidents.

The research will also look at what safety measures had been taken to educate and protect skiers in school groups.

Ms Cooper intends then to develop a new injury prevention program.

"There will always be skiing accidents, but I want to develop a program that means skiers get hurt less often and less seriously."

As skiing has evolved, the types of injuries skiers sustain have also changed, Ms Cooper said. Snowboarding has led to a trend towards upper body injuries rather than traditional knee injuries, while technology has increased the likelihood of serious injury.

"Kids racing today are going a lot faster than Australia's first skiers went on their 2.5m skis in the 1860s."
Water research drops graduate on world stage

Edward O’Daly

14 June 2006. A University of Canberra environmental scientist is bound for Scotland to present research findings that could help safeguard Australia’s floodplains at an international conference.

Munique Webb graduated with a Bachelor in Resource and Environmental Science in December and is now working at the University as a research assistant - a position she held part-time during her studies.

Since graduating, Ms Webb has continued to get her feet wet as a research assistant at the University

“What is so exciting for me is that my project started off as a little experiment at the end of my second year and now it has been recognised by international scientists,” Miss Webb said.

“I’m really excited about going to Scotland - I’ve never been overseas before.”

Irrigation

During her studies she won a scholarship, which saw her spend a summer experimenting on seeds in soils from a flood plain in northern New South Wales. The seeds lie dormant in the ground until floodwaters come and they burst into life, however the natural flooding process has been disrupted by irrigation.

Manmade flooding is intended to mimic the natural processes, but Miss Webb found different species’ seeds are sensitive to the depth of floodwater and the duration of the flood.

Her results will help those charged with managing the floods to work out the potential consequences of different durations, volumes and frequencies of flooding on the sensitive ecosystem without risking serious damage to the environment.

She will present her findings to the International Association of Hydrological Sciences at a conference in Dundee in July.

Her current work at the University involves research measuring the health of billabongs along the Macthtyre River, which forms the Queensland-NSW border, continuing her student interests into her professional career.

‘Balanced view’

“I love this job, it doesn’t even feel like work. It was great working here while I was studying. I’d learn some things at work before class and apply things I learned in class to my work.”

Originally from the country town of Boorowa, Miss Webb said she understands the needs and value of farmers, but is also passionate about preserving the environment she grew up in, giving her a uniquely ‘balanced view’.

“Eventually I want to go back to the country. I’m a big believer in giving back to those who gave to you,” she said.
University tutor observes Tsunami aftermath firsthand

Jacquelyn Curtis

14 June 2006: A "spur of the moment" decision and a firsthand glimpse of the aftermath of the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami has stirred the creative juices of creative writing tutor Ben Stubbs.

Last November, Mr Stubbs spent a month in Sri Lanka, one of the areas ravaged by the Tsunami two years ago. Mr Stubbs lived among a 'tent city' of nearly 300 locals who had their homes destroyed by the Tsunami at Unawatuna beach.

Mr Stubbs' experiences in Sri Lanka have given him a taste for travel writing.

"There were still buildings smashed and rubble everywhere. I traveled along the coastline and there were graves and headstones all down the coast. Fishing boats were snapped in two. Metal pylons and cement blocks were strewn on the sand.

"After nearly a year on, it was an incredible sight."

Mr Stubbs drew a comparison with what he saw in Sri Lanka to the recovery of parts of tsunami-affected Thailand, which are now beginning to thrive again.

"Overlooked"

"Sri Lanka is a bit off the map in terms of tourist destinations," he said. "It's not a tourist hotspot and I think that is why it has been somewhat overlooked."

Since returning to Australia, Mr Stubbs said he discovered of the $380 million donated by Australians to aid Tsunami victims and aid reconstruction, approximately only $150 million has been spent.

Mr Stubbs' experience has inspired an interest in volunteer work and how large charitable organisations manage donations.

On a personal level, a newfound interest in travel writing based on his experience has seen his work published in The Canberra Times and The Sydney Morning Herald.

With a trip planned to Colombia and Venezuela later this year, Mr Stubbs indicated his travel writing isn't a fleeting dalliance.

Confidence

"It is something I'm moving towards," he said. "A Lonely Planet gig would be great...you never know."

Aside from a possible new career venture, Mr Stubbs said his travel experience has given him more confidence in his writing and teaching.

"Once you can put yourself in stressful situations and deal with them it gives you a bit of perspective," he said. "Once you see how tough life is for some it helps to not sweat on the small stuff."

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au

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Body image class a real-life experience for psychologists

Jacquelyn Curtis

14 June 2006: A unique series of workshops designed to encourage a positive approach to body image has allowed clinical psychology masters students the opportunity to practice their skills.

Positive Bodies: loving the skin you're in is the first of its kind to promote positive body image for both men and women from the general community.

Six clinical masters students have been involved in both hosting and running the workshops as well as undertaking research required to prepare three sessions. The 'hands on' exercising of their skills will be evaluated by four graduate diploma students.

Program coordinator and psychology lecturer, Vivienne Lewis, said positive body image can significantly affect a person's well being.

"Culture has a big impact on body image," she said. "The media and social things like teasing can really affect a person's body image."

"This is a great program created upon evidence-based research which allows the group to work together, to share experiences and opinions and encourage positive learning."

Ms Cubillo said in addition to encouraging positive messages about body image, the program has also allowed her to apply research and gain experience working in a group environment.

"In practicing psychology we are taught that thoughts affect feelings, which in turn affect behaviour," she said.

"It was great to see how these principles work in reality."

Ms Cubillo says the feedback from the sessions has all been very positive; and the experience had been an incredible 'learning curve' for her and the other students involved.

"It has been a really rewarding experience. This is a great program and it has really exceeded our expectations."

Dr Lewis plans to take a modified version of the program into primary schools as a way to prevent eating disorders and body image problems in adolescence. She also hopes to run a body image program exclusively for men.

Ms Cubillo said the workshops gave her the chance to see how the principles she learned worked in reality.

Photo: Michelle Khoo

For news and events from the University of Canberra visit: http://www.canberra.edu.au
Law students raise the bar for Justice Connolly

Jacquelyn Curtis

14 June 2006: Four University law students put their legal skills to the test last week when they presented cases before a judge from the ACT Supreme Court.

The students - Julia Burns, Parvinder Kashmirian, Jason Yan and Logan Tudor, faced Supreme Court Justice Terry Connolly for the mooting competition grand final.

The contest sees two teams present and argue a fictional case in front of a judge. A moot takes place in an appeal court and requires teams to present a high quality legal argument to determine whether the initial judgement was correct.

The grand final case, held in the University’s Court of the Future, centred upon complaints from residents living next to a cricket ground about wayward cricket balls falling into their yard and unnecessary lawn mowing disrupting their weekend.

During the trial, both teams had to field questions from the bench and formulate a rebuttal to the argument of the opposing team, which tested their public speaking and advocacy skills.

After their success in arguing to have an injunction upheld to curb the incessant mowing, Ms Burns and Ms Kashmirian said the experience of being judged by a real Justice had them "terrified".

"He stumped me with a few tricky questions," Ms Burns said.

'Terrific tradition'

Following the mooting final, Justice Connolly gave an address about the "terrific tradition of mooting".

Justice Connolly urged those who "aspire to the bar" to take up mooting to develop oral advocacy skills required to gain an edge in such a competitive discipline and to make the most of a valuable networking opportunity.

"If nothing else, participating in mooting means when you are admitted to practice as a junior you won’t be filled with abject terror when fielding questions from the bench," Justice Connolly said.

Jason Gravitis, President of Isaacs Law Society, which organised the night, said the law school was "incredibly lucky" to have Justice Connolly adjudicate the final.

"It is a testament to the growing reputation of the University’s law school," he said.

The evening concluded with the presentation of Thompson Awards which recognised student academic excellence in law subject areas.
UC hosts school kids for day of environmental discovery

Kaddie Pass

14 June 2006: Staff and students braved wintry weather last week to run an environmental project activity day for school students on the shores of Lake Ginninderra to mark National Environment Day.

More than 270 years five to 11 students from the ACT, NSW and Victoria joined in the field day that was part of the Murray Darling Basin Commission Canberra Riverhealth Conference on Monday 5 and Tuesday 6 June.

Year 11 Ginninderra College students, Prissy Ntim and Karl Schwab volunteered to help out with the worm farming workshop, saying it was an opportunity to see how others see the environment.

"It's a good way of experiencing the environment and everyone is enjoying themselves," Prissy said.

"And it's a good way to teach young people," Karl added.

Prissy said she was surprised at the level of environmental knowledge the children had.

"When I was that age I didn't learn about all this," she said.

Workshops were held on Indigenous dance and art, bug sampling, microscopic examination, soil testing, worm farming, bird observation, vegetation health assessment, and an ecological footprint workshop that gave children food for thought on the energy cost of items in a shopping basket.

Pro Vice-Chancellor of Health, Design and Science, Sue Thomas expressed her support for the event.

"The University of Canberra is proud to support World Environment Day by providing practical, hands on activities by University of Canberra teaching staff and students. The day will help raise youth awareness on the importance of working towards a sustainable future," Professor Thomas said.
New Indonesian alumni chapter launched

Jason Tozer

14 June 2006: A University of Canberra alumni chapter in Indonesia has been inaugurated by Indonesian-based Australian Alumni Association (IKAMA) president Hermanto Dardak and the University's international director Kevin Brett.

Fifteen people including the head of the Indonesian alumni chapter Andru Nasrun and the Team Canberra Indonesian representative Citta Sellepan attended the event.

Mr Brett said the University is looking to build its presence in Indonesia by working with alumni located there.

"We will continue to support UC alumni chapter activities in Indonesia including the development of a UC alumni chapter website and attendance at the annual IKAMA dinner," he said.

"The alumni network will provide invaluable support to Indonesian students who intend to study at UC as well as those returning home to establish a career."

According to Mr Dardak the establishment of the chapter under IKAMA will open numerous opportunities for alumni members.

"As part of IKAMA's big family in Indonesia, UC alumni members have opportunities to network with alumni from other Australian universities as well as contribute to the people-to-people relationship between Indonesia and Australia," he said.

The chapter currently has more than 50 active alumni members who meet on a regular basis, the majority of whom are based in Jakarta and occupy senior management level positions in both the public and private sector.

Such high profile position holders include the vice president at Ericsson and HSBC, Rosalina Syhariar-Fite, human resources specialist for the Bank of Indonesia, Irwan Zubir, senior advisor for the Indonesian Ministry of Public Works, Melya Marpaung, and senior advisor for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Fajar Harijo.

The next University alumni activity in Indonesia is their attendance at the IKAMA dinner in Jakarta on 16 July.
Walk with a Rose puts best foot forward

Amy Banson will walk from Brisbane to Canberra in memory of University of Canberra student Clea Rose. Gaye Morrison hit the road for the launch of the charity expedition

6 June 2006: Walk with a Rose was launched in Brisbane last Thursday, with an early breakfast BBQ at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. As the University of Canberra is a sponsor of the event, I was pleased to assist the team in the early stages of their journey.

Broncos stars Justin Hodges and Michael Ennis came to offer their support and Mal Meninga, former Raiders player and now the coach of the Queensland State of Origin team, came to send walker Amy Banson off.

Amy will walk from Brisbane to Canberra in memory of University of Canberra student Clea Rose who died after being hit by a car in Civic last year. Proceeds from the walk will go to the National Brain Injury Foundation.

Another highlight of the day was the support received from patients and former patients of the Hospital receiving treatment for brain injury. Many of the patients, some in wheelchairs, followed Amy a short distance into the walk.

The ABC TV program Australian Story came to do some filming of the launch, but it was the appearance of Amy on the Today show which caused the most anxiety for our team.

The Today show was going to do a live cross at 8.40am with Amy and Mal Meninga. Unfortunately the location of the cross changed slightly due to their satellite.

We all - me, Amy, Clea's sister Zoe, hospital staff, various supporters and Mal Meninga - trooped into the lift, it moved slightly, shuddered and stopped. The lift came back to life 20 minutes later and we made our escape, but sadly Amy missed her TV appearance.

Although it was disappointing for all concerned, it cemented the great team spirit, so necessary in such a demanding project.

The first day was a rigorous walk for Amy, from the Princess Alexandra Hospital to Ipswich. However as she had to walk on footpaths the entire distance, the walk was 55 km in total, considerably longer than the direct route.

I was pleased to join the walkers for a short leg the following day. Amy sets a cracking pace, but I would encourage the University community to consider joining in as the team approaches Canberra. It gives a feeling of great accomplishment and camaraderie.

We were stopped on the road by members of the public offering donations. Most had seen Amy on the news the previous evening. This is a really wonderful event, so keep the donations here at the University coming in.
Clea's spirit honoured in travel scholarship

Edward O'Daly

6 June 2006: The 'adventurous spirit' of Clea Rose will live on in a new scholarship funded by her family.

The 21-year-old University of Canberra tourism management student died last year after she was hit by a car in Civic. She had recently returned from a semester at Colorado State University in the United States. The $2,000 scholarship will help other students to study abroad.

Frances Rose, Ross Dunn and Roger Dean formalise the scholarship

"Clea was always seeking to expand her horizons and to take on new challenges; our goal is to encourage an energetic and adventurous spirit in other young people, and to help them live life to the full," Ms Rose's mother Frances said.

Her father, the University's deputy HR director Ross Dunn, said Ms Rose had made firm friendships while she was in the US and the family had been touched by the messages of sympathy they had received from around the world.

"Clea made many friends and participated fully in new opportunities that opened for her in Colorado and we want other students to have the same broadening experience that Clea had in studying overseas," he added.

While good application to studies will be important, the scholarship is aimed at students with other qualities such as friendliness, a "cooperative nature" and involvement in university and community life.

The annual Clea Rose Travel Award will initially be open only to tourism students, but after its first two years applications will be open to any University of Canberra undergraduate student.

Applications for the scholarship will open later this month. More information will be available on the scholarships website shortly:

http://www.canberra.edu.au/student-services/scholarships
Design graduates dominate industry awards

Jason Tozer

6 June 2006

University of Canberra industrial design graduates were well represented across the presenters, nominees and winners at the recent Australian Design Awards in Sydney.

Among the winners was graduate Rohan Primrose, part of the team that took home the 2006 Australian Design Award of the Year, which was presented by University Council member Michael Bryce.

Together with colleagues at ResMed he developed the S8 Series Flow Generator and HumidAire 3i Humidifier System designed to help sleep apnea sufferers, which also won the Medical and Scientific Award.

Though Mr Primrose has been part of an award winning design team before this was extra special as he was part of the core design team.

"It was a buzz being up on stage with the team, for the Design Award and Design of the Year Award, in front of our peers in the industry," he said.

"It definitely made all the hard work more worthwhile."

Hard work is something of an understatement with the design project taking about two years from conception to completion.

"It was challenging work with tight deadlines and extended working hours at crucial points of the projects," Mr Primrose said.

A number of other design graduates were part of winning teams at the awards.

Kristin Schanche and Dan Armstrong's Housewares International team won a Consumer Award for the Breville tilting mixing bowl, as did Mick Mellos and Gerard White's team for the Breville BJE200 Juice Fountain.

Libby Christmas, who graduated last year, was part of the Catalyst Design Group that won the Materials and Textiles Award with their GAV General Accoutrement Vest.

Robert Grassia was part of The Product People's team who won a Furniture and Lighting award for their design of the first every soft stadium seat called the 'The BOX seat', while Peter Cooper's Konstruct Design team won a Sport and Leisure award for their Barracuda Predator Goggles.

Six other graduates were finalists at the awards.

Joe Seddon, David Knott and Andrew Crick were part of teams that were finalists in the Consumer category, David Grager and Brian Marshall's team were finalists in the Furniture and Lighting category and Richard Burns was a finalist in the Dyson Student category.

Mr Primrose said the strong presence of University of Canberra design graduates was a reflection of the quality of the School of Design and Architecture and the dedication of its students.

He offered some advice to current students:

"I would definitely recommend students as early as first year to do work experience as it will give them a taste of what it is like in the industry."

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au
Award for teaching big issues to little people

Edward O'Daly

6 June 2006: Four teaching graduates have won a national award for developing a syllabus to introduce the concept of multiculturalism to kindergarten children.

Julie Bassett, Alison Hyman, Suong Le and Marike Vrieling won the Social Educators Association of Australia's national prize for unit writing for developing a course in the theme global understanding as part of their final year of studies at the University.

The 10 to 12 week course was designed to "convey how big the world is in a non-scary way" and tackled multiculturalism through a range of activities, including some that asked children to think about their own heritage and how it influences their daily life.

The four alumnae, who graduated in December last year and are working in schools across Canberra, were presented with their certificates at the University last week by Ruth Reynolds who had been on the association's judging panel.

Dr Reynolds praised the way the course integrated different activities, including "innovative teaching ideas" and encouraged greater understanding of other groups and multicultural issues.

The quartet initially won the ACT round of the competition before being chosen ahead of finalists from the other states and territories.

"They were substantially ahead of everyone else," Dr Reynolds added.

In addition to their certificates, the group received a subscription to the association's magazine, The Social Educator, and assistance to attend its conference. Their unit will be published in The Social Educator.

Suong Le, Marike Vrieling, Alison Hyman and Julie Bassett developed the award-winning unit outline as part of their teaching studies

Photo: Michelle Khoo
Short story competition open to all media

Edward O'Daly

6 June 2006: Cutting edge storytelling will compete with the written word in this year's University of Canberra National Short Story Competition.

As it enters its 15th year the competition is inviting entries from a variety of electronic storytelling forms including film, animation and interactive media.

"The big thing this year is that our emphasis is on storytelling, not just the written," competition chair Sam Hinton said.

"The whole point is to tell a story. As long as it's short and sharp, how you tell it is up to you."

There is still plenty of room for traditional storytellers to use poetry and prose in the competition, which last year received more than 600 entries.

Total prize money of $6000 is on offer split equally in two categories: the written word (stories up to 1000 words) and multimedia (films up to two minutes long).

Entries close on 1 July 2006.

http://creative.canberra.edu.au/sstory/
University given century-old piece of customs history

Edward O'Daly

6 June 2006: A 100-year-old book that in its day was the customs officer's 'bible' was presented to the University of Canberra's Centre for Customs and Excise Studies (CCES) on Monday.

Retired customs officer John Reilly gave his original 1904 leather bound copy of H.N.P. Wollaston's *Customs Law*, which he used in his work as a prosecuting officer as late as the 1960s, to the CCES chief executive David Widdowson, who promised to look after it.

"At the CCES our clients rely on us to prepare them for the future and we pride ourselves on being at the cutting edge of customs research and training, but we couldn't pass up the opportunity to add this remarkable book to our collection," Professor Widdowson said.

"Looking to the future is vital but it is even more valuable with a sound appreciation of the past. Wollaston's *Customs Law* is a defining piece of customs history and we are proud and privileged to be entrusted with a copy."

"We will put it to good use because a lot of our students are very interested in delving into the past."

Mr Reilly was a customs officer from 1938 to 1982 and found the book in "mint condition" in a second-hand shop in the 1950s.

"At 84 it's of no further use to me and I'm pleased to give it to someone who appreciates it," he said.

The donation ends a lengthy search of internet auction sites for a copy of the rare book to join items including customs manuals from the Third Reich in the centre's collection.
Centre Stage: Centre for Developing Cities

What do you do?

We are involved in research and teaching related to the development of integrated planning and management of developing countries particularly Indonesia, the Philippines.

Why is it important?

Often developing countries don't have the capacity to deal with the very large challenges faced in relation to urbanisation and economic development particularly where resources are limited and investment is small. Regional governments in Indonesia and the Philippines under the recent decentralisation processes have the responsibility but not the resources to deal with these challenges.

What's new?

The Centre has been awarded a contract under the Indonesia Australia Specialised Training Program (IASTP) Phase III to teach Economic Development Planning to 20 participants (including two from Aceh) for three months from June to August. The participants are selected by their government department and have already spent three months in Denpasar on cross-cultural and extended English training. For many participants it will be their first trip overseas.

The Centre has previously taught Small and Medium Business Training (2005) and District and Provincial Planning (2001-2004) in Australia, and a number of District and Provincial Planning courses in Indonesia (2000-2005) under the same program.

Who's in charge?

Professor Brian Roberts, professor of urban management
Grant brings IT entrepreneurs' innovation closer to market

Edward O'Daly

30 May 2006. An entrepreneurial pair of recent graduates are a step closer to turning a University project into a commercial reality thanks to a $50,000 grant from BusinessACT.

Since graduating with honours in software engineering in December, Scott Samuels and Michael Hazilias have been hard at work setting up their firm Canopy IT Solutions.

The duo's product, HRMWeb, an innovative online human resource management system designed to make everything from rostering to tax easier for small and medium sized businesses, was developed as part of their studies.

"This is a niche that needs to be filled," Mr Samuels said.

"But if it wasn't for the University of Canberra, we probably would have never got started with this project."

The Canopy team, which also includes James Nikolaidis, had slowed down on developing the software to avoid jeopardising their eligibility for support from the Business ACT Knowledge Fund. The cash is for a round of testing and refinement, but could not be awarded if the work had started, which meant stalling progress on the project and a nervous wait for the Canopy team.

"It was a gamble that has paid off," Mr Samuels said.

"We can now go full steam ahead and hope to commercialise the product in December."

Canopy also offers technical support and software services, with all profits being fed back into the company. The team is particularly keen to take HRMweb to market as they will finally be able to award themselves a salary.

"All our profits have been going back into the business and we've been working part-time on the side. We aim to be full-time by July next year."

The Canopy team - James Nikolaidis, seated, Scott Samuels and Michael Hazilias, right - is hard at work preparing HRMweb for the next phase of testing

Photo: Kimberly Douglas
Native speakers only an iChat away for linguists

Jacquelyn Curtis

30 May 2006: A new video conferencing tool, iChat, has enabled third year Japanese students to put their speaking and listening skills to the test with online conversations with native Japanese speakers.

Hosted at the Communication Learning Resource Centre (CLRC), the students converse with Japanese students from Aichi Shukutoku University in Nagoya, many of whom have minimal English speaking skills.

Lecturer in Japanese, Yuko Kinoshita, said she had never seen her students speak Japanese so "enthusiastically and confidently" before.

“Speaking and listening to a native speaker of a language is very different than in a classroom environment,” she said. “It is very involved and demanding on the students.”

The iChat sessions form part of the students' assessment and require them not only to spend time talking with native speakers but also to prepare conversation material and complete a final report.

Past conversation topics have included a debate about the death penalty and discussion of article 9, the "No War" clause of the Japanese Constitution.

"The topics are somewhat controversial and aim to really test the students' skills," Dr Kinoshita said. "They also give an insight into Japanese culture and society."

Student, Kathleen Dyett, said the sessions were "challenging" and required a high level of concentration.

"You really have to think about what you are going to say, and there is a lot of preparation involved," she said.

Technical officer from the technical services unit (TSU) George Bray said the use of video conferencing showed promise for educational purposes.

“Certainly it is useful in language classes, but it isn't just language students it is useful for,” he said.

"For example, engineering students could use it for talking to engineering students at MIT."

Mr Bray suggested the current iChat sessions could lead the way for the creation of a full video conferencing unit at the University.
Jury service shouldn't be a chore, says researcher

Edward O'Daly

**30 May 2006:** Transforming jury service from an onerous obligation into an entertaining opportunity to be involved in direct democracy is at the heart of an award-winning researcher’s work.

David Tait, winner of a Vice-Chancellor’s Distinction Award for Creativity and Innovation in Research and Enterprise, last week, is investigating ways to improve jury satisfaction and how architecture and technology might impact on their decisions.

Anecdotal evidence suggests some jury rooms are more intimidating than others and may increase stress among jurors and mean not all voices are heard. Dr Tait and his colleagues are researching how jury rooms with relaxed breakout spaces could make the process less stressful.

**Enjoyable**

They are also looking at ways of making the experience more enjoyable.

“Jury service is the only chance we get to be involved in direct democracy. It should be a satisfying experience, but one of the main complaints jurors make is it's boring,” he said.

“If you’re bored you don’t listen, so can you make an informed decision?”

Together with University of Canberra colleagues, Greg Batty, head of the School of Creative Communication and Chris Lennard, adjunct professor in forensic science, he is examining how trials can be more interactive and entertaining. One possible method is to use the latest computer technologies to create animated 3D reconstructions of crime scenes.

While prosecutors are keen to embrace new technology, there are fears it could be too persuasive.

**Balance**

“We are looking at ways to ensure balance, by giving the defence access to the same technology or by effectively explaining to jurors what the images they see mean and how they are created.”

Dr Tait’s interdisciplinary work draws together expertise from architects, judges, court artists, lawyers and psychologists, which is both efficient and fun, he said.

“It's absolutely fascinating wandering around buildings with an architect and a psychologist - they see things I would never see,” he said.

“One of the frustrating things about research is you often spend a lot of time learning a new discipline from scratch. By having a mix of expertise on board, I can go direct to an authority on a relevant subject.”

The University of Canberra punches above its weight in this field, with its reputation in managing interdisciplinary legal research attracting dollars and expertise from larger universities and industry to work on projects run by the University’s law department.
Research keeps mental illness reporting in check

Edward O'Daly

30 May 2006: Research that has already had an impact on the way the media deals with mental illness was recognised at last week's Celebrating Research event.

The University's News Research Group's Warwick Blood was one of two academics to receive a Vice-Chancellor's Distinction Award for Creativity and Innovation in Research and Enterprise.

Professor Blood's research looks at the way mental health and suicide are reported and portrayed by the news media. In a collaborative effort with colleagues at the University of Melbourne, the News Research Group completed a substantial monitoring of Australian newspapers, radio and television to determine how they reported mental health issues. This research informed the publication of the Australian media resource kit, Reporting Suicide and Mental Illness, which has been sent to all media outlets.

Collaboration

"What we are concerned about is the way in which mental illness is quite frequently explicitly linked to violence," he said. "Acts of violence by the mentally ill are rare, but a lot of news is framed in such a way that an individualised case is generalised to all people who are mentally ill."

The media monitoring project led to a number of collaborative research projects funded by the Australian Research Council, beyondblue, the national depression initiative, the Rotary Mental Health Research Fund, and the Commonwealth's Department of Health and Ageing.

According to Professor Blood, suicide should be reported in such a way that it is not "glorified" or seen as a "viable option". News stories about mental illness and suicide should include details of where people can gain further information or access mental health services.

He said in recent years there has been a "profound improvement" in reporting in metropolitan newspapers, radio and television. The work of beyondblue has also had a significant impact in perceptions of depression.

Formulas

Professor Blood said there was a need for research in this area because, while the media had modernised the way it reported on issues such as sexuality, in other areas it was still using the "same old formulas" and there was always room for improvement.

Professor Blood is also currently investigating how journalism contributes to national identity in the post-conflict, "risk society" of Kosovo and investigating journalism training at the newly formed Kosovo Institute for Journalism and Communication.

Professor Blood was pleased if a little embarrassed to receive the award.

"It's a bit embarrassing because it's so much a team effort," he said.

"Where would we be without PhD students?"
Completing library survey nets lucky student an iPod

Edward O'Daly

30 May 2006: IT student Robert Moon will be able to study to music wherever he goes after completing the Library's recent user survey.

Mr Moon was the winner of an iPod Nano, offered as incentive to complete the survey, which eventually received more than 1500 responses.

The second year student normally listens to music on his home computer while he studies, but will now be able to take his music with him. The first album onto the tiny music player would be the Red Hot Chilli Peppers’ latest release, closely followed by tunes by Tool and Metallica, he said.

University librarian Anita Crotty said she was pleased with the response to the survey and hoped to have the results by mid June.

The survey, conducted by behavioural research company the Rodski Research Group, will identify the library services staff and students believe are the most important and how successfully they feel they are delivered. It was the most comprehensive user survey in the Library's history and will allow the Library to benchmark its performance against other university libraries in Australia and New Zealand.

Other library news:

The drive to collect non-perishable foods in return for reduced fines has seen four trolley-loads of food collected at the library. (read previous story)

The food will be passed on to the Salvation Army.

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au

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Dad's Army invaded the stage with amusing results, writes Jacquelyn Curtis

30 May 2006: An audience of theatre devotees journeyed back to war-time Britain as they watched the much-loved characters of the BBC comedy, Dad's Army strive to protect Britain's borders.

The Players Company transformed the UCU Theatre Restaurant (Clive Price Suite) into the town hall of Walmington-on-Sea, where the well-meaning misfits of Dad's Army staged their regular Home Guard meetings.

The performance opened with the gruff Captain Mainwaring, played by 2005 Canberra Area Theatre Award Winner Phil O'Brien, inspecting his platoon.

All the characters and their unforgettable catchphrases were present and accounted for: the precious "Stupid Boy" Pike, the eager "Permission to speak" Jones, the ever optimistic Scotsman Frazer and frail old "May I be excused Sir" Godfrey.

"This isn't a cocktail party, Wilson - it's war!" Captain Mainwaring declared as his the gentlemanly deputy, Sergeant Wilson, asks the platoon's German hostage "Would you mind awfully putting your hands up?"

A three course meal was combined with the slapstick comedy antics of Dad's Army as two episodes play out on stage.

In The Deadly Attachment the platoon guarded a U-Boat Captain who defiantly refused to eat soggy fish and chips, with the result placing Jones in a compromising position.

"They could put 20 bombs in my trousers and never make me crack!"

In The Floral Dance the platoon rehearsed a song and dance routine with plenty of off-key and out of time frustration for Captain Mainwaring to contend with.

The performance concluded with an invitation to the audience to sing along, embodying the jovial and light-hearted tone of the evening.

Dad's Army will of course appeal to fans of the BBC comedy, who will be pleasantly surprised with the portrayal of the iconic characters in this production. Those who aren't familiar with the television series will also enjoy the performance which is entertaining in its own right.
Support epic walk without leaving the campus

Jason Tozer

30 May 2006: University of Canberra staff and students can make donations to support Walk with a Rose as easily as picking up the phone.

Walk with a Rose will see Amy Banson walk from Brisbane to Canberra to raise money and awareness for the Australian Brain Injury Foundation.

The walk is in memory of University of Canberra student Clea Rose who died from brain injuries three weeks after being hit by a car in Civic last year. Ms Banson was the first person to Ms Rose’s aid after the accident.

Students and staff can support Ms Banson’s efforts by making a donation to the charity.

UC Student Centre cashier Warwick Taylor says it is very easy to make a donation to the Walk with a Rose charity.

"Accounts has set up a cost centre and students or staff can come in and make a donation when ever they want," Mr Taylor said.

"If people want to they can even ring up and pay by credit card over the phone."

Cash, cheque or credit card donations can be made at the Student Centre cashier or credit card donations can be made over the phone on 6201 2451.

Donations can also be made via the Walk with a Rose website.

www.walkwitharose.com.au
Centre Stage: Sustainable Tourism CRC

What do you do?

A lot. The Sustainable Tourism CRC (co-operative research centre) is about linking university research with the tourism industry so that the research can be used to improve the industry, and ultimately benefit Australia as a whole. We do this through a number of ways, conducting innovative research and producing research findings in easy to use formats such as industry reports, seminar, tool kits, manuals and products. The focus is really on the outcomes of the research and providing products for industry to use. I work closely with the tourism industry locally, with other researchers as part of the 16 university partners.

Why is it important?

It's important because the tourism industry is a very important industry for Australia and for Canberra. However, the industry needs innovative research and products to help them manage tourism in a more sustainable way (in economic, social or environmental terms). It is also important because our research and work has a direct benefit and connection to the industry, which is personally rewarding as well as rewarding for our staff and students (who we often employ casually).

What's new?

We are starting a project to commercialise a visitor satisfaction benchmarking tool that tourism destinations and enterprises can use. This is a result of several years of research and testing. We hope that soon many destinations and enterprises throughout Australia will be using the toolkit to research visitor satisfaction and benchmark themselves against other destinations and enterprises. This should help them to identify problem areas that need management attention and raise standards across the industry. A DIY toolkit and web portal where they can compare data will probably be the outcome.

Who's in charge?

That would be me (Dr Brent Ritchie) for the ACT. There are coordinators in each State/Territory. We have been involving more staff from the University of Canberra in projects and in the next year or so will try to include many more. It is hard balancing working with others in the university, with other universities and with industry!
Student's Australian Story nears happy ending

Edward O'Daly

23 May 2006: A third year journalism student could be on her way to a dream job at the ABC after being shortlisted in a competition run by the national broadcaster's popular show: Australian Story.

The Great Australian Story Challenge invited students to produce a five-minute film in the style of the show, with Kathleen Dyett making the top six. The prize for the top film is a three month internship working on Australian Story.

"I love Australian Story and it's where I'd like to work eventually," she said.

"I was very excited to find out I was a finalist - to win would be the icing on the cake."

Her film For Love of Country tells the story of veteran country music broadcaster Keith Melbourne, whom Ms Dyett, from Wodonga, befriended while working on community radio in Albury.

From filming to interviewing to editing, the film is an almost entirely solo effort by Ms Dyett.

"I had a bit of help from family - holding microphones, that kind of thing - but I wanted to do it on my own. It was a good opportunity to hone my skills."

She began making the film a year ago before the competition was launched and then finetuned it to fit the requirements of the competition.

As a finalist, Ms Dyett is also in the running for viewers' choice award, voted for by users of the Australian Story website. The deadline to cast your vote is Friday.

Her film can be viewed online at:

http://www.abc.net.au/austory/gas/

Ms Dyett is one of six finalists in the competition

Photo: Michelle Khoo
For items published 2007 + please visit Monitor Online here

Semester two access scholarships available

Jacquelyn Curtis

23 May 2006. There is still time for undergraduate students to apply for a semester two 2006 Access Scholarship worth $2,000.

The University of Canberra is one of six universities that have recognised the need to help disadvantaged students with higher education costs, by granting Access Scholarships to ease study expenses.

The scholarship has made life easier for Ms Kirby  
Photo: Kimberly Douglas

The scholarships are administered through the University Admissions Centre (UAC) and are open to students that are currently enrolled and students applying for admission to the University.

To encourage participation in higher education by students from low socio-economic backgrounds, preference is given to various equity groups.

These include Indigenous students, students from isolated areas, students with a disability, students from non-English speaking backgrounds that have lived in Australia for less than ten years and students that are single supporting parents.

For current scholarship recipient, Melissa Kirby, the Access Scholarship has enabled her to change from part time to a full time study and to relocate to Canberra from Yass.

Ms Kirby, a single mother of two children and a full time community studies student, said the scholarship had “certainly made things easier.”

Moving to Canberra has not only ended hours of commuting, but also enabled her to build a support network to help her and her children through the course of her studies.

“Prior to receiving an Access Scholarship I was studying for two days, working for two days a week and looking after my kids - all without any support.

“It has hugely benefited me,” she said. “The move and changing to full time just would not have been possible without the scholarship.”

“For anyone considering fulltime study, definitely consider applying for a scholarship.”

Applications for semester two must be submitted by 2 June. For full application criteria and information, see www.uac.edu.au/mya/pdf/equity_book-2006mya.pdf

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au

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Researcher immortalised thanks to fluke of nature

Jacquelyn Curtis

23 May 2006: A University postdoctoral fellow has received many scientists’ dream - entering the history books by having an animal named in his honour.

The ‘D’ encyclopaedia will soon have a new entry - *Doodytrema carettochelydis* or “Doody's fluke”, named after university research fellow in environmental science Sean Doody.

Dr Doody, formerly from Louisiana, undertook field research on pig-nosed turtles in the Northern Territory with two US colleagues, Scott Snyder and Vasyl Tkach.

During the research process they discovered a new species of gut parasite in the intestine of the pig-nosed turtles.

Doody’s fluke is described in the research paper, soon to be published in the journal *Comparative Parasitology*, as measuring 5.4mm long, unspined and densely covered with tiny papillae.

Dr Doody has spent 10 years studying the ecology of the pig-nosed turtle and is credited in the paper as “an expert in the biology of pig nosed turtles and the person who made collecting these turtles and parasites possible.”

Dr Doody said it was “neat” to have a permanent legacy of his work.

"I guess it was exciting and I was very flattered," he said. "What is very unique about this particular species is that it warranted a new genus."

Dr Doody said he had joked with his colleagues about having the parasite named after him when they first discovered it, but hadn't really expected them to do so.

"I joked that I wanted a new genus named after me," he said.

“They gave me an option to be either an author on the paper or have the parasite named after me," he said. "In the end I decided against the paper because I figured having it named after me was longer lasting."

Dr Doody has recently returned to the Northern Territory to continue ongoing research on the impacts of cane toad on native predators.
Biography takes centre stage at launch

Edward O’Daly

23 May 2006: The Coop Bookshop was an appropriate venue for the launch last week of a book by the store’s former manager.

Marya Glyn-Daniel’s new book *Floating in Foyers* is a biography of publicist and Canberra theatrical ‘identity’ Coralie Wood.

Last Tuesday’s event was one of a series of launches for Ms Glyn-Daniel’s book, which had an earlier ‘theatrical’ launch at Vivaldi’s restaurant in Acton and will be unleashed on readers in Sydney later this year.

Photo: Michelle Khoo

Ms Glyn-Daniel managed the bookshop, where she still works on a casual basis, from 1987 to 2001 and is also known on campus as producer of the Players Company.

Three years in the making *Floating in Foyers* has been a mammoth project for Ms Glyn-Daniel, who lists several one act plays and her own memoirs on her writing CV.

“I didn’t realise it was going to be so big,” she said.

“It was a lot of fun. It was good for me as a writer and it took me to places I wouldn’t otherwise have been to.”

She explained Ms Wood approached her to write the biography, as although they were acquainted through the theatrical community, they were not close friends.

“She has a lot of journalist friends who could have done it, but she wanted somebody who didn’t know her.

“I thought it might be fun, so I started taking notes and things would happen that were funny and I found myself writing the book.”

Ms Glyn-Daniel thanked the University community for its support of her work both in the bookshop and as a writer.

Launching the book former Vice-Chancellor Don Aitkin described Ms Wood as a “one-off” and said *Floating in Foyers* was “written in Marya’s best breezy style”.

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au
Library introduces fine foods for a good cause

Edward O'Daly

23 May 2006: University of Canberra students will be able to save money on their library fines by donating non-perishable foods to the Salvation Army.

To celebrate National Library and Information Week, the University Library and the Curriculum Resources Centre will reduce charges on any overdue book by $2 per food item.

"This is our opportunity to make an extra contribution to our local community and for students to save money and contribute to a good cause at the same time," librarian Anita Crotty said.

"Obviously we always encourage students to return their books on time so others can use them, but for this week anyone receiving a fine can view it as a gift to the needy rather than a punishment. And we'll happily accept donations from all library users regardless of whether their book is overdue.

"Libraries are here to help with books and knowledge, but we want people to see us as a living, breathing part of the community."

The University's Curriculum Resources Centre, which provides teacher education resources and equipment will operate a similar scheme with its fines this week.
Walk with a Rose to bring 'closure' for good Samaritan

Edward O’Daly

16 May 2006. A young woman who gave first aid to University of Canberra student Clea Rose after she was hit by a car in Civic last year, is to walk from Brisbane to Canberra in her memory.

Amy Banson will spend eight weeks on the road, raising money and awareness for the National Brain Injury Foundation. Ms Rose, who was in the final year of her Bachelor of Tourism Management degree, died from brain injuries sustained in the accident in August last year.

Her sister Zoë, who will be part of Ms Banson’s support team, and father Ross Dunn are both University of Canberra employees.

Ms Banson will leave Brisbane’s Princess Alexandra Hospital on 1 June and walk between 14km and 55km a day on the epic trek. She will also stop en route for fundraising activities, interviews and to chat with passers-by and have regular rest days.

Money raised on the walk will go towards respite care for people with brain injury and their families.

"The walk is my way to do my part," Ms Banson, who is studying theology and social work at the Australian Catholic University, said.

"It does have a healing component for me. It's a closure to my part in Clea’s life."

Ms Banson, who decided to do the walk as a "challenge" before she met Clea Rose for the first time on that tragic night last July, has been training since June 2005. Since February she has spent two to three hours a day walking and further hour running five days a week.

Volunteers will be welcome to join Ms Banson on sections of the walk.

"It's not going to be a race. I've had to train because I'm walking for a long time, but each day the pace shouldn't be too hard to keep up with.

"We want to get as many people involved as we can by donating money or time, by walking or just helping us out with a glass of water at the side of the road."

For more information, including an itinerary and training schedule, visit:

www.walkwitharose.com.au
Workshop teaches people to love skin they're in

Jacquelyn Curtis

16 May 2006: As the unrealistic social pressure to have the ‘perfect body’ intensifies, the University is to run a unique workshop to help people develop a positive body image.

Positive Bodies: Loving the skin you’re in is the first of its kind to run in Australia, offering workshops open to men and women in the community with issues of concern in regards to their bodies.

“This ‘perfect’ body is impossible and unrealistic for most people to achieve,” program coordinator and psychology lecturer Vivienne Lewis said.

“For some, it can lead to dangerous paths such as depression, and dangerous eating and dieting practices.”

The program is based on Australian and international body image research into a condition known as Body Dysmorphic Disorder (BDD), in which sufferers become fixated on an aspect of their body they perceive to be unpleasant.

Dr Lewis says having a positive body image is important as it can influence how we feel about ourselves in general and can affect our day-to-day lives. In her clinical practice she says that she sees men and women of all ages who are struggling to feel comfortable about themselves in the bodies they have.

“If you’re not happy with how you look then there is a good chance you're not going to be happy inside,” she said.

“A positive body image significantly affects a person's well being.”

As well as encouraging a positive approach to body image, the program also offers masters students in clinical psychology the opportunity to practice their skills, under the supervision of Dr Lewis.

Dr Lewis says the pressure to have the 'perfect body' is unrealistic and potentially dangerous
Photo: Kimberly Douglas

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au
eWater CRC

What do you do?

Our core business is to build 'tools' to support the groups responsible for managing and monitoring rivers and other water resources, in urban, rural and coastal areas. We're developing such things as software, guidelines, professional training and related services, that integrate climatic, ecological, economic, land-use and social factors, physics and engineering. Over the life of the CRC, some tools will be distributed commercially, while others will be supplied directly to our industry joint venture partners.

We also train postgraduates, providing them with scholarships, operating funds and giving them industry-relevant expertise.

Why is it important?

Water is critical to Australia's future sustainability and economic prosperity. As the National Water Initiative outlined, we as a nation must reduce water consumption while maintaining the growth of the economy and sustaining a healthy environment.

To realise these outcomes, Australia needs knowledgeable and integrated management of water resources. eWater CRC, which is the largest Australian R&D organisation focused solely on water-cycle R&D, aims to produce practical tools to support that water management.

What's new?

Everything. eWater CRC was launched in March, and we are in the busy planning stages of our R&D. However, our staff has great track-records in research, product development and delivery, gained, for example, in work with two former water-focused CRCs: Freshwater Ecology and Catchment Hydrology (CRCCH), and we have taken over the Catchment Modelling Toolkit (see www.toolkit.net.au) developed by CRCCH.

In other news, Professor Richard Norris (of UC and eWater CRC) has just returned from California where he has been speaking about the national assessment of rivers and water quality. He leads a team from across eWater CRC, including several UC staff, which is currently engaged in building a national framework for assessing Australia's river health, as part of the National Water Initiative. eWater CRC's team at UC is also currently developing and trialling an online training module to support regional groups involved in setting ecological targets for rivers.

Who's in charge?

Professor Gary Jones
Talk maps out changing financial landscape

Jacquelyn Curtis

16 May 2006: The second lecture in the Professorial Lecture Series saw new Pro-Vice Chancellor for Business, Law and Information Science (BLIS), Deborah Ralston, share her research experience in the financial services sector.

Professor Ralston has a Bachelor of Economics, a Graduate Diploma in Financial Management, Master of Economics and PhD in Finance.

The lecture, the second in the series, was titled The Changing Nature of the Australian Financial Landscape and examined 20 years of change in the Australian economy and financial system from 1985-2005.

Increasing at 5.3 per cent a year over this period, growth of the finance services sector was spurred on by the emergence of sophisticated products and innovations within banks and finance institutions.

A self-professed advocate of banking, Professor Ralston argued banks were the "engine room of our economy" and that the economy depends on them for the efficient allocation of resources to drive economic growth.

Professor Ralston presented an overview of her passion, the deregulation and re-regulation of the finance services sector. She cited the Campbell Inquiry of 1979 and the Martin Report in 1991 as examples that identified the need for a stable and efficient banking system in Australia.

In addition to an overhaul of the industry, Professor Ralston analysed other factors of change, including the effect of technology in shaping banking systems and how people transact; using her earlier research on the impact of branch closures in small country towns as an example.

Professor Ralston argued the lessons learnt through her research showed risk, flexibility, convenience and diversification were key factors to a stable and efficient finance sector which is in a constant state of evolution.

"A lot of the lessons I have learned through 20 years of experience in financial institutions' research influence my attitude towards management in universities what I want to achieve here at the University of Canberra," she said.

In recognising parallels between the finance and higher education sectors, Professor Ralston highlighted the need to respond to changing societal expectations for convenience and flexibility in service delivery.

"A university without flexible delivery is like a bank without ATMs," she said.
Teetotal lifestyle may not be good for brain: research

Edward O'Daly

16 May 2006: The adage 'everything in moderation' has been borne out yet again in research presented as part of the Research Area in Preventive Health and Improved Wellbeing lecture series.

Kaarin Anstey, from the Centre for Mental Health Research at ANU, revealed findings from the 'PATH through life study' on the effect of alcohol on the brain at the University seminar last Wednesday.

Volunteers from three age cohorts (20-24, 40-44, 60-64) were questioned on their drinking habits and tested on their cognitive abilities (reaction times, verbal skills, recollection), as part of the huge study covering many aspects of their lives.

The study found those who abstained from alcohol altogether performed worse across all age groups, followed by occasional drinkers.

Those with light (up to 14 drinks a week for men or seven for women) and moderate (up to 28 for men, 14 for women) alcohol consumption performed best in the cognitive tests, with even the heavy drinkers (with hazardous consumption in excess of 38 units a week for men, 14 for women) outperforming their teetotal peers in some areas.

Even when other factors, such as education and health were taken into account, the results stood, Dr Anstey said, suggesting a link between moderate alcohol consumption and better cognitive performance.

"I'm only an occasional drinker, so perhaps I need to drink more," she said.

Dr Anstey emphasised the research had not looked into binge drinking and the damage this does to the brain would prevent any possible benefit.

"You certainly shouldn't have all your 28 drinks in one night," she added.

Brain scans in older subjects also revealed the brains of heavier drinkers were in poorer conditions than those who did not drink to excess.
High schools discover the University of Canberra

Edward O'Daly

16 May 2006: Solving a mystery posed by some human bones was a task for high school students getting their first taste of university last week.

As part of Discovery Day, the forensic science activity was one of a number of hands on experiences, showcasing the University to 100 high school students.

Other activities included a tour of the University's TV studio and the chance to be jury in a mock trial staged in the University's moot court.

Joel Smith from Erindale College said he'd found it “worthwhile” to visit the campus and learn more about the University, while Marist College student Michael Filardo said he had enjoyed the chance to sit in on a discussion with industrial design students.

Naomi Seselja from Daramalan College said she hadn't known what to expect from University before the visit, but now she did.
University courts visiting high school students

Edward O'Daly

16 May 2006: Students from Wagga Wagga had their day in court as part of a trip to Canberra to learn more about university life.

The law school's moot court was one of the highlights of the day for the group from three Wagga Wagga schools, who also toured the campus and heard presentations from lecturers in psychology, IT, communication and science.

"It's been great. I really like the law faculty," Mt Austin student Kirsten Strabel said.

"I didn't expect the lecturers to be so down to earth."

Friday's visit was the first trip to a university for fellow Mt Austin student Lyle Dinnie, who said he hadn't realised universities "had so much in them".

Careers advisor Michael Marien said seeing universities firsthand was extremely valuable for the students, who visited other tertiary institutions in the capital. He was impressed with the welcome the group had received at the University of Canberra.

"It was more than just walking around," he said.

"The more hands-on it can be the better and the chance to go into the court was really good."
Trailblazing Chinese cohort en route to UC degrees

Jacquelyn Curtis

16 May 2006: A group of 15 Chinese students are the first to study as part of an articulation program between the University and Renmin University of China.

Renmin University is a highly prestigious university in Beijing and became an institution partner with University of Canberra in 2004 with the creation of an articulation program.

The cohort is a close knit group

Photo: Michelle Khoo

The program allows students to begin their studies at Renmin and complete a diploma program at University of Canberra College (UCC), which enables them to enter the second year of selected bachelor degrees.

Catherine Price, business development manager of the China Management Studies Unit, said the articulation program was an important achievement for the internationalisation of the University.

"It is a big achievement and it is significant as this is the first cohort to come out together," Ms Price said.

Glenys London, director of studies at UCC said: "The program benefits all round.

"Both students and the University gain something by the link between the two institutions."

The current group of students arrived in early April and are the first cohort to have almost completed stage one - the conclusion of a specialised English program,

"All going well, they will start their degrees in February," Ms London said.

"It has been wonderful that they came out together because we have been able to do special things and incorporate excursions into the program that we couldn't do with individual recruitment."

The students said they were enjoying themselves and learning a lot through their English program.

The benefits of the program have been recognised with the enrolment of more than 50 students for the second cohort, due to arrive in March next year.
Taiwan shows Mandarin students what it has to offer

Edward O'Daly

9 May 2006. Taiwan pitched what it had to offer the University's Mandarin students at a special showcase last week.

Representatives from four of the island's universities - Ming Chuan University, Tzu Chi University (a Buddhist university), Fu Jen Catholic University, and Mandarin Training Center of the National Taiwan Normal University - visited the University to participate in the forum.

"Studying in a Mandarin speaking country such as Taiwan gives students the ability to be totally immersed in the Chinese culture for six weeks speaking nothing but Mandarin," Chinese program coordinator Felicia Zhang said.

"They will also have the opportunities to participate in many cultural events thus getting an insight in the cultural traditions of China. On top of that they will make life long friends with will benefit them in future. This program truly fits in with the aim of internationalising our students at UC."

Study at a Taiwanese university would count towards a students University of Canberra degree, but the program was open to all staff and students, Ms Zhang explained.

For more information contact Ms Zhang:

felicia.zhang@canberra.edu.au

The presentations opened the door to Taiwan for Mandarin students
Photo: Michelle Khoo
Long locks lost for leukaemia

Edward O'Daly

9 May 2006: Brave students from the University Residences - Ressies - raised more than $3,000 for the Leukaemia Foundation by having their heads shaved in the bar last Thursday.

Kobie Howe, Geoff Meech, Ben Carroll, Pat McManus and Kathryn Taylor all went head to head representing their residences to see who could raise the most money for the cause.

Ms Taylor and Mr McManus lost the longest locks, but were proud to have done their bit for the cause.

"We raised $700 from my hair alone," said Arscott House resident Mr McManus.

"It's for a good cause and it was time for a change."

Speaking after his encounter with the clippers, Mr McManus said his no-longer pony-tailed head felt "a bit different" and he wasn't concerned with how he looked as it was for a good cause. He added he was due to take part in a photo shoot for a friend's advertising.

Ms Taylor, from New Res, raised the most money of the night for her sacrifice.

"It makes me feel really good because we are the smallest res," she said.

"I figure money for the foundation's better than my hair, but I don't want to look in the mirror yet."

Other than helping a worthy cause, Mr Carroll had the added incentive of finally looking the same as he does in his student id photo after allowing his once short hair to grow.

Canadian exchange student Mr Meech didn't think "it was a big deal" to shave his head, so had been willingly 'volunteered' by his International House colleagues.

Ms Howe had recently had her long hair cut shorter.

"It was the shortest I have ever had it so I thought let's shave it all."

Staff members Mary Carse, director of residential services, and Ed O'Daly, editor of the Monitor, also put their heads on the line being dyed pink and shaved respectively.

"It was a tremendous effort and a lot of fun," Dr Carse said.

"Students are not on large incomes so I'm very excited about the money they've raised. They have shown great community spirit and I'm very proud of them."
Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre

What do you do?

The CRC has a tactical mandate to help reduce the impacts of invasive species (such as cane toads and feral cats) on agricultural, environmental and social values. The goal is to bring researchers, producers and end-users together to develop new tools and strategies to control invasive animals.

Why is it important?

Invasive animals cost Australia at least $720m a year and are to blame for much of the loss of plant and animal species since European settlement - the highest record for biodiversity loss anywhere in the world.

In the last two years there have been Inquiries by the Senate and House of Representatives, each reinforcing that invasive animals are a real and present danger to agriculture and the environment - and more must be done to 'turn back the tide'.

What's new?

The CRC aims to develop commercial products as well as improving risk management, community education, and end-user training.

The first commercial product is shortly to be submitted for registration. Pigout is a large omnivore bait formulated to effectively deliver toxins, disease vaccines or oral contraceptives to wild feral pigs in a safe, convenient and generally target-specific manner. Its formulated medium is designed to deter non-target species. It is camouflaged yet pungent, and encased in a tough skin only able to be penetrated by large jaws.

Who's in charge?

Dr Tony Peacock
Joint program takes students Beyond Articulation

Jacquelyn Curtis

9 May 2006. Graduate Sally Redhead, who completed an Advanced Diploma of Interior Design at CIT before spending her final year at the University is testament to the close relationship between the two institutions.

Beyond Articulation, the new program to allow for greater collaboration between the university and Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) builds on this strong partnership history between the institutions in providing joint degrees in design, communication and new media and early childhood studies.

Ms Redhead, who graduated with Bachelor of Interior Design last year and now works for a local architecture company, said the experience of collaboration between the institutions gave her a “cutting edge advantage into the industry”.

“The CIT experience was definitely beneficial in the way of being industry ready,” she said. “This was complemented by the more conceptual and lateral thinking offered by UC to maximise your potential as a designer.”

Particularly in design it is important to have and overall perspective of creative processes as well as an understanding of how to effectively execute and communicate your ideas and concepts within the workplace,” she said.

For Jonathan Lang, a Diploma of Business at CIT provided a stepping-stone into further tertiary study. He enrolled in a Bachelor of Management and is now doing a Bachelor of Philosophy for his Honours year.

Although Mr Lang was unsure of his career direction after graduating from Erindale College, his studies at CIT offered an alternative path to university studies.

“My teachers believed I was capable of extending myself and encouraged me to continue studying,” he said.

“I never thought I would end up doing honours.”

Mr Lang said his university experience has been just as encouraging, with the “brilliant” academic staff very supportive.
UC - CIT collaboration a model for the sector

Edward O'Daly

9 May 2006: A new project that sees the University and the Canberra Institute of Technology working hand-in-hand to develop smoother pathways and a closer relationship between the two institutions is set to become a model of cross-sectoral collaboration.

Beyond Articulation was officially launched in the Council Room last Wednesday. With funding of $326,000 over two and a half years, the project is the only DEST funded project allocated under the Collaboration and Structural Reform program for cross-sectoral collaboration.

Speaking at the launch, Vice-Chancellor Roger Dean cited statistics illustrating a huge increase in both the number of courses offering articulation (16 in 1993 and 130 last year) and the number of CIT graduates studying at the University (1993: 82, 2005: 238).

Professor Dean said the project could be a model for the sector and was a really "important step forward".

Dean Vaughan Croucher, representing the chief executive of CIT at the launch, said the collaboration would be a boost for the ACT in attracting and retaining students and cement the capital's reputation for quality.

The MC for the launch, Pro Vice-Chancellor (academic) John Dearn reflected on the close relationship between the two institutions and individual staff members before looking to the future.

"Watch this space, the next two years are going to be very exciting," Professor Dearn said.
Former VC discusses equality and education’s future

Edward O'Daly

9 May 2006: Equality was a recurring theme in last week’s higher education talk given by former University of Canberra Vice-Chancellor Don Aitkin.

Professor Aitkin was reflecting on the state of higher education as part of a Centre for the Enhancement of Learning, Teaching and Scholarship higher education forum.

"We now know that with a few exceptions all human beings are highly educable," Professor Aitkin said.

"We are all capable of high competence in everything, but we’re not all capable of excellence. But even to be highly competent requires a good deal of energy.

"If in the first five years you get the right balance of love and encouragement and firmness, you will do well."

Australian society was less divided than other nations along grounds of class, caste, race and religion, he said, but Australians still sought ways to position themselves relative to their neighbours, through notions of good schools and good universities.

Professor Aitkin argued as all human beings had similar potential, education could be seen as a "threat" to the status quo.

He explored the question of whether Australia was an 'anti-intellectual' nation, but suggested "a highly pragmatic attitude to learning and knowledge" was a more accurate description.

Looking to the future, Professor Aitkin acknowledged universities were under pressure to reduce what they offer and be more "student driven".
Thai new year celebrated in colourful fashion

Jacquelyn Curtis

2 May 2006. The University of Canberra celebrated Songkran, the Thai new year, for the first time last week.

The refectory came to life with traditional Thai music, rituals and food; as delegates from the Thai Embassy, Canberra Multicultural Forum and the University community learnt to say "Sawadee Pi Mai", which means happy New Year.

Launching the festival, Vice-Chancellor Roger Dean said understanding cultures was important within a multicultural society.

The festival is an opportunity for young people to pay respect to their elders. This was demonstrated through the ritual of pouring water on the elders, which saw Thai students washing the hands of special guests at the Songkran festival including Professor Dean.

The highlight of the festival was the Miss Songkran pageant, which saw five willing Thai students dress in traditional Thai costumes and answer typical pageant questions such as what "their ambitions are for the world".

President of the Thai Cultural Association of Canberra, Nim Osborne, was compere as the Miss Songkran contestants gave their answers and explained their traditional dresses came from various parts of Thailand and are worn for entertaining guests, including the King.

After much deliberation by the judges, Harmony Patron Sam Wong announced student Penny Phipps as the 2006 Miss Songkran.

"Never in my wildest dreams I thought I would be crowned," Ms Phipps said. "I was a bit reluctant to enter at first, as I am half Thai, but the other girls were very welcoming and it was a lot of fun.

"It is great to see an involvement by a lot of people to celebrate aspects of the Thai culture."
Thai students bring Songkran festival to life

Jacquelyn Curtis

2 May 2006: Two Thai students had an extra reason to celebrate at Songkran (Thai New Year) last week as the festival also marked the culmination of many hours of planning and organising.

Pond Aramsri and Rannes Ronnaritivichai, both international students from Thailand, helped organise and run the Songkran festival as part their studies towards a Bachelor of Hotel Management.

As part of their course, an event management unit required a 40-hour internship with an event organisation.

Ms Aramsri and Mr Ronnaritivichai chose to work with the Harmony Program to bring the Songkran festival to the University.

For Ms Aramsri, her internship was "a lot of hard work" but also a very rewarding chance to see Thai culture take the stage.

As well as being involved in finding sponsors and support for the event, Ms Aramsri also took a starring role on the day of the festival: competing in traditional Thai dress as a contestant in the Miss Songkran pageant.

Mr Ronnaritivichai said he had found the internship rewarding as it brought the Thai students together.

"I'm pretty happy to do this, because it teaches people about Thai culture," he said.

"It also gave me the opportunity to meet new Thai students."

The students' lecturer and course convener of hotel management, Dale Saunders, said at the event Ms Aramsri and Mr Ronnaritivichai had "by all reports done a great job".

In addition to organising the event, Ms Aramsri (right, with compere Nim Osborne) was also a contestant in Miss Songkran

Photo: Jacquelyn Curtis

Related story:

Thai new year celebrated in colourful fashion

Did you enjoy the food at Songkran?
Try Nim Osborne's Thai chicken curry puff recipe
Residents give charity a head start

Edward O'Daly

**2 May 2006**: Students from University halls of residence - 'Ressies' - will be having a close shave on Thursday night.

This year's annual Ressies charity event will see representatives from each of the five residential colleges go head to head to see who can raise most for the Leukaemia Foundation's World's Greatest Shave event.

"This year we wanted to make a really big deal out of it and the best way to get the most out of people is to make it a competition," Ressies events coordinator Anna Wallace said.

"But this is a University event not just a Ressies event, so everybody is welcome to come along and join in."

The event, sponsored by UCU and residential services, will include live music and a barbecue, while coloured hairspray will be on hand for anyone who wants to give their hair a colourful makeover.
Korean water partners drop in at new CRC

Edward O'Daly

2 May 2006: The University-based eWater Cooperative Research Centre welcomed friends from further along the water research alphabet yesterday when representatives of K water visited the campus.

The two senior researchers from K water, the Korean water management corporation, which has responsibility for all of South Korea's water supply in addition to a growing research function, are in Canberra to work on the details of a joint project.

The project is due to kick off in July and will apply eWater's river catchment expertise to research in South Korea's Guem River basin, chief executive Gary Jones explained.

"Most of the research will be in Korea and most of the application will be in Korea, but it will be based on the models we have developed here at eWater," he said.

Director of K water's Water Resources and Environmental Research Center Ick Hwan Ko and his colleague, senior researcher Jeongkon Kim will visit the Cotter catchment today to make sure the visit exposes them to both "ecology and engineering," Professor Jones added.

Dr Ko praised the way eWater combined theoretical research with implemented solutions and said the two organisations shared a similar philosophy.

"We have common goals in developing tool kits for integrated water resource management," Dr Ko said.

"We have research collaborations with many different organisations, but I've never seen one like eWater."

Honours student Michael Peat, who is researching ecological response to flow disturbance in the Cotter River system, will be the visitors' guide at the Cotter today.
Host with the most (hair) keeps ICAN in business

Jacquelyn Curtis

2 May 2006: The University-hosted Canberra's Growth Businesses forum proved to be a model of the desirable business skills of thinking calmly in a crisis and overcoming adversity, last night, by successfully going ahead after its host pulled out at just a few hours notice.

The intended forum host, breakfast television personality David Koch, was unable to attend after travelling to Tasmania to cover the bid to rescue two trapped miners.

Introducing the forum, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Division of Business, Law and Information Sciences Deborah Ralston mentioned the 'miracle' operation in Tasmania, adding that "another small miracle" had occurred here in Canberra.

Professor Ralston's second miracle was Peter Switzer, small business editor for The Australian, who stepped in at the last minute to host the forum.

"All everyone's saying is that I have more hair than Kochie," Mr Switzer said.

Canberra's Growth Businesses was one of the headline events of the fifth ICAN festival, which celebrates Canberra's ideas and innovations. The forum saw three local entrepreneurs and University of Canberra alumni discuss how innovation aided the growth of their businesses.

The panellists were Lyndal Thorburn, adjunct professor in biotechnology commercialisation at the University of Canberra and managing director of Innovation Dynamics; Brand Hoff, University Council member and founder of Tower Software; and John Benton, University graphic design graduate and co-founder of Cre8ive Communications.

Mr Switzer, who owns his own publishing and financial services business, opened proceedings by discussing the importance of regular reviews and analysis for business growth, stating business owners should "be like a sponge" and never become complacent about innovation.

Demonstrating his credibility and wealth of business knowledge, his presentation was well received by the audience who heartily responded to his comedic quips and self acknowledged shameless attempt at self-promotion (Switzer wrote best selling book 350 Ways to Grow Your Small Business).

The panel also discussed the benefit of tertiary study in creating small businesses, with the panellists fielding questions from the audience about how they made their business a success.
Benign whiteness falls short of equality

Jacquelyn Curtis

2 May 2006 What began as creating a lecture for first year international studies students about Australia's 'history wars' developed into a new research interest for Auriol Weigold.

Dr Weigold is the course convener for international studies and received her PhD here at the University in 1997. She has long held a research 'passion' for India and continues research in Australian-Indian bilateral relations and Asian analysis more generally.

However, Dr Weigold shared a new research interest as part of the Staff and Visitor's Lunchtime Seminar Series organised by the School of Creative Communication.

Her paper, titled *Benign Whiteness in Australian Race Relations* was given at a conference in India in January this year, and is an overview and political historical tracking of benign whiteness, which is "at best, a placid and merely symbolic regard for Indigenous issues", in Australia.

The paper described benign whiteness in an Australian context as a symbolic regard for Indigenous issues and passive tolerance, rather than a commitment to achieve equality.

The paper used examples including the 1967 referendum that gave Indigenous people the right to vote and the 'Sorry Day' marches in 2000 to demonstrate how an attitude of tolerance and benign acceptance has underpinned race relations in Australia.

Dr Weigold's research argued that while Australia in general showed support for Indigenous rights through these events, there seems to be a paradox within attitudes towards race relations that is part sympathy and goodwill; and partly a sense of resentment and anxiety toward government policies favouring Indigenous people.

To illustrate this, Dr Weigold cited theorists in the field and used the rise of Pauline Hanson's One Nation party and the High Court decision in the *Mabo* land rights case.
Don't get caught in phishers' net, warns expert

Edward O'Daly

26 April 2006: A leading computer security expert is warning email users to be on their guard as web-based scams designed to trick people into revealing their electronic banking details become more sophisticated.

University of Canberra software engineering lecturer Michael Wagner told Monitor he has been alarmed by the way phishing, as the high-tech fraud is known, has become dangerously more professional.

“A few years ago, it was easy to spot a phishing email, they were quite amateurish, the English was very bad and they did not look professional,” Professor Wagner, who is also head of the new National Centre for Biometric Studies, which specialises in the next generation of electronic security, said.

“I recently received several emails pretending to be from the National Australia Bank that included the bank’s logo, appeared to come from an official bank email, were quite well written and even incorporated NAB’s own security advice, complete with a link to the genuine website.”

He said phishers had the necessary expertise to mask their own email address and set up convincing fake websites linked to the email for customers to enter their security details.

While the vast majority of online banking customers would not be taken in by such scams, with millions of the emails sent out, only one per cent of recipients would have take the bait for the criminals to net a tidy profit.

However even with the increased levels of sophistication, there were plenty of telltale signs the email was a fake.

“It didn’t address me by name, which my bank would have done, there were still errors of basic grammar (most phishing emails come from overseas), and the email came a few weeks after the bank rebranded to NAB, but had the old National logo.

“And, of course, all the banks are very clear that they will never ask you for your PIN in an email.”

Tips:

Never give your account number and PIN in response to an email

Don't click links to your bank's website (go from your own bookmarks in your own browser or enter the genuine address manually)

Don't panic (phishing emails are generally only trying to trick you into revealing your PIN, they are unlikely to pose any other risk to your computer's security)
Innovative alumni return to support business

Edward O'Daly

26 April 2006: Three entrepreneurial alumni will share the secrets of their success at a University forum, hosted by breakfast TV star and respected finance journalist David Koch.

John Benton (a graphic design graduate), founder and director of advertising agency Cre8ive, Lyndal Thorburn (legal studies), adjunct professor of biotechnology commercialisation, and Brand Hoff (information science), founder of Tower Software and director of National ICT Australia will form a panel of Canberra experts to be interviewed by Mr Koch at the Boiler House on Monday.

The Canberra's Growth Businesses forum will be aimed at small and medium-sized innovative businesses as part of ICAN, Canberra's ideas and innovation festival.

Dr Thorburn, whose firm Innovation Dynamics provides services to emerging and established technology-based firms, and industry policy development for government agencies, said the breadth of experience on the panel would make the forum extremely valuable to business people.

She said Canberra offered unique challenges and opportunities to small businesses.

"It can be quite hard to get to places like Perth or Hobart," she said.

"But it's much easier to get access to the ACT government and have them on your side."

She said the most important piece of advice she would give someone considering setting up a small business was to "do their homework" before they start.

Graphic design graduate Mr Benton, who founded Cre8ive in 1999 aged 21, said he would emphasise the importance of branding, he added.

"Because of my field of work I'll talk about the importance of brand - even in a small business - and how that affects the way you are perceived," he said.

Mr Benton, the Advertising Federation of Australia's Youngblood of the Year in 2005, said the business units included in his course at the University had been very useful in his career.

By promoting dialogue between the business and education sectors the forum was a "good thing", he added.
University graduate gets graphic with fashion

Jacquelyn Curtis

26 April 2006. A University of Canberra graduate is attracting attention in the fashion world with her graphics-fuelled design label, alpha60.

Georgie Cleary, who graduated in graphic design in 1998, created alpha60 with her brother Alex, and the label recently opened a flagship store in Melbourne.

After graduation Ms Cleary started work with hip-hop label Freshjive, as a graphic designer. A year or so later, she was offered the chance to become the womenswear designer, even though she had not formally studied fashion design.

During her four years at Freshjive, Ms Cleary began “doing my own thing at night, and started mucking around with what became alpha”.

“I never started it with an intention for it to be something to live on,” she says.

“But now it’s more than full time work!”

Ms Cleary describes the alpha60 style as “really graphically based”.

“I start with the graphics, then design the garments around them,” she said.

Using graphics in their designs has become a ‘calling card’ for alpha60, with Ms Cleary explaining they’ve become known for it in the fashion industry.

“Basically the label has become a vehicle for the graphics I want to do,” she said.

“What is great is that I don’t have to design to a brief, I can do whatever graphics I want.”

Ms Cleary said never having studied fashion design has not impaired the growth of alpha60, and the experiences she gained at university provided the backbone for her design approach.

“My whole theory is that studying any kind of design gives you the foundations you need,” she said. “A lot of those foundations are the same for other disciplines.”

Next up for alpha60 is Sydney fashion week, where they will stage their show apart from the official fashion week events, which will give them the opportunity to do it their way and “how we want to do it”, according to Ms Cleary.
Former VC to urge greater investment in knowledge

Edward O'Daly

26 April 2006: Former University of Canberra Vice-Chancellor Don Aitkin will review the state of higher education at a public talk next week.

Speaking to Monitor, Professor Aitkin outlined some of the issues he will explore in the ‘The State of Higher Education - the long and the short of it’, a higher education forum presented by the University's Centre for the Enhancement of Learning, Teaching and Scholarship.

"One thing I'm likely to say is we are moving towards a more elitist higher education system and that's not a good thing," he said.

This was a serious issue as more than ever before not going to university was a "serious impediment" to an individual's future, he said.

He explained the gap between what groups in society could afford to do with their disposable income was set to become greater, with an eventual situation where the 'haves' could “buy your own doctor, buy your own school and buy your own university”.

Professor Aitkin will not paint an entirely negative picture as he feels universities have been and remain respected in the community as places of knowledge and learning.

He will also argue investment in our knowledge is vital if Australia is to avoid being overtaken by other countries.

The forum will be held on 4 May, at 12.30pm in the University Council Room.

Registration is essential:

celts@canberra.edu.au

02 62015290
**Survey to shape future of library**

Edward O'Daly

**26 April 2006:** Staff, students and the community have the chance to shape the future of University Library as part of the largest user survey ever undertaken by the institution.

With unprecedented investment in books and other equipment underway, librarian Anita Crotty said now was the time to confirm the library was meeting the needs of its customers.

"We've never done a survey as comprehensive as this," she said.

"A considerable amount of the Student Contribution Amount from this year and last year has been allocated to the library and we want to make sure our investments are on target."

Ms Crotty encouraged staff and students to complete the survey, which takes "about 10 minutes", and announced one lucky student who completes the survey will win an Apple iPod Nano. Community users of the library are also invited to take part.

The survey, conducted by behavioural research company the Rodski Research Group, will identify which library services staff and students believe are the most important and how successfully they feel they are delivered.

The results will help library managers identify unmet needs and future requirements, and ensure the library offers the services people need, Ms Crotty said. They will also help the library benchmark its services against other Australian and New Zealand universities.

The survey, running from 1 to 12 May, will be available electronically by logging into OSIS or OPUS or in hard copy at the Library Information and Loans Desk.
Wanted: environmental expert to become a star

Nicky Connor

26 April 2006: Environmental experts with screen presence are being offered the chance to be a star as part of a new ABC TV show.

A new series made by December Films for the national broadcaster, will feature academics demonstrating the latest advances in our understanding of the environment.

“We're looking for people with runs on the board academically,” casting director Helen Linthorne said.

Ms Linthorne explained candidates would need to be able to devise and demonstrate the latest environmental advances and thinking in easy to understand experiments.

The series will be a home makeover show with a difference, where each week houses are made 'greener'.

The work is paid and might suit environmental engineers, architects or teachers, she said.

The series will be shot over 10 weeks from July, with experts required three to five days a week.

Applicants need to complete an application form and submit an audition tape.

To apply, visit the December Films website

Applications close 5 May

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au
Industrial design graduates are 100 per cent winners

Jacquelyn Curtis

11 April 2006: The University of Canberra has proven its industrial design graduates are a cut above the rest by taking out the Design Institute of Australia Graduate of the Year award for the second year in a row.

The award has only been running for two years, meaning the University has managed to achieve a 100 per cent success rate by winning both years.

Mr Pidcock hopes to be involved in developing his winning design with a manufacturer.

Photo: Catharine Verrills

The 2005 winner, David Pidcock, was presented with his award on 15 March for his winning entry ‘Orca’, a specially designed foot anchor and shoe product used for rowing.

Mr Pidcock said his success was a testament to the course producing graduates with a “quality which is being recognised by the industry as being very professional”.

“It’s really putting UC on the map as an industrial design university,” he said.

A rower for around six years, Mr Pidcock said his design was very much “grounded in experience” and fulfilled a need an ACT Academy of Sport rowing coach also recognised.

“He had so many things where he said ‘we need something that does this’ and there’s no one out there making them,” Mr Pidcock said.

Orca features an angled platform which can be adjusted by quick-release levers and a specially designed shoe system, enabling each rower to have their own pair of shoes which are able to be worn on land as well as fit into a cleverly-designed outer shell mounted onto the plate.

“It basically uses all the same principles as the rowing machine at the gym,” he said.

“When you’re in a rowing boat in a race, you want to have as much support as possible around your feet.”

Mr Pidcock said there had been quite a lot of interest in his design, and the recognition he has received due to winning the award has even piqued the interest of an American rower and of course, potential employers.

“If it does get picked up down the track by a manufacturer, I’d definitely like to be involved in that,” he said.

Last year University of Canberra graduate Nick Robinson won the award, with fellow graduate Phil Rose coming second.

Other top industrial design graduates:

Dan Mylonas was a finalist in the Object design awards.

Richard Burns is in the final 11 students in the Australian Design Awards. The winner will be announced in May.
Sun, sand - and a bit of surfing too

Jacquelyn Curtis hit the beach in search of the perfect wave, but after three days of struggling to stand up was happy just to find her balance.

11 April 2006: Ever wondered how it feels to be one of those thrill-seekers floating way out in the ocean, beyond where the waves are breaking, straddling a surfboard and gazing over their shoulders at a perfect wave looming behind them?

I admit I thought surfing would be much easier than it was. OK - maybe I was a bit optimistic to expect after a weekend of lessons I'd be ready to audition for Blue Crush.

But after three days of putting my body on the line in some of the biggest waves the coast has seen, the only thing my surfing talent was appropriate for was a cringe-worthy audition tape for Australia’s Funniest Home Videos.

The UCU Surf Safari took a group of about 25 wannabe surfers, ranging from absolute beginners to experienced surfers to Lake Tabourie, south of Ulladulla, for three days of sunshine, sand and surf.

Ideal conditions

Wizard of the waves, Tony “Gandalf” Pines and his lovely German assistant Elena, gave us a literal crash course in learning to surf, beginning on Friday in ideal conditions for beginners.

After a quick practice of catching waves to the cries of “paddle, paddle, paddle!” by Elena, the surf gradually became rougher and my progress declined throughout the day until I found myself in an incredibly frustrated (and tired) state.

We retired for the day, and one surfer aptly commented as we dragged our boards and ourselves back to the bungalow: “I feel like one of the contestants from The Biggest Loser after a challenge!”

Saturday morning we suited up just after daybreak and hoped our aching muscles had a little left in them.

But wave after wave dumped us into the surf, and we exhausted ourselves by heading back out each time for more punishment, only to nosedive every time the whitewash came near.

‘So much effort’

One particularly frustrated and cranky surfer commented that “everything about surfing is effort. Effort to suit up, effort to carry your board down to the beach, effort to battle the waves to get out where they’re breaking, get dumped, then effort to get back out there again. It’s all so much effort!”

By the midday we had Elena agreeing with us that the surf was less than ideal, only to have Gandalf jump into the surf and take a monstrous wave whilst standing on his head.

After a break for lunch and a short nap for some, the afternoon brought grumpy surfers, whingeing about their ailing muscles back down to the beach- only to hear of a shark sighting moments before their arrival.

Needless to say I, and many others, didn’t tackle the waves that session.

However the afternoon wasn’t a total waste, as we became incidental spectators of a barefoot beach wedding as the sun went down.

Spectacular crashes

The evening was spent warming up in long hot showers and watching some of the spectacular crashes that Gandalf had filmed during the morning session.

Sunday came too quickly for many frustrated surfers - including me - who feared returning home without having made it to our feet on the board.

The surf was monstrous at Lake Tabourie, so we packed up our gear, piled into the mini bus and drove to Broulee in the hope of finding smaller surf.

Luckily, some ‘baby waves’ greeted us and we could finally make some decent progress. One by one, members of the group stood up - except for a handful including me.

I was getting more and more frustrated as the clock ticked on - I just couldn’t find the strength to push myself up off my feet and I continued to nosedive into the sand.

Standing up

Finally, Elena came to my rescue and demonstrated her ‘three step’ method for standing up, and on my first attempt, I did it - on wobbly legs I gained my footing and sauntered into the shore to elated shouts of “woohoo!”

Pleased I’d finally mastered the art of standing up, I was more than happy to board the bus and head home tired andachieved - but definitely happy I’d caught the ‘perfect wave’.

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au
Teaching terrors uncovered in stage fright research

Edward O'Daly

11 April 2006: Many people dread public speaking - but what if you had to face your stage fright on a day-to-day basis? Some teachers battle nerves as an unavoidable part of their job, but new research by a University academic aims to uncover just how stage fright affects the teaching profession.

Marketing communication lecturer Amanda Burrell trained as an actress before making the move to academia so she knows a thing or two about having to cope with nerves before a performance, but even she took a while to recognise the symptoms of stage fright.

"I had come back to work after maternity leave and I was sitting in my office and I had this horrible feeling. I didn't know what it was at first, then I realised it was nerves," she said.

"I wanted to explore this, to find out if it affects other people and look at how they cope with it."

Ms Burrell explained stage fright may not necessarily be a bad thing, with many actors reporting it enhances their performance and professional surfers saying nerves in the face of a big wave are a normal part of the job.

She wants to know whether stage fright in the classroom affects the teaching experience for either the students or the teachers.

"We don't know how it impacts on quality. Can you operate at an optimal level if you're frightened?"

"There is little acknowledgement in our training that a lecture is a performance. You might be given tips on projecting your voice, but you aren't taught things like how to connect with an audience."

She hopes if nothing else, her research will help lecturers who suffer from stage fright realise they are not alone, but her eventual aim is to help teachers enhance their skills.

If lecturers have sound methods to conquer or even harness their nerves, Ms Burrell hopes these can be shared. She is also interested in whether anxiety is more prevalent in different disciplines or teaching environments.

"I'm teaching online for the first time and I've got 'virtual stage fright,'" she said.

If you are a university teacher who has experienced stage fright and would like to participate in the research, email:

Amanda.Burrell@canberra.edu.au

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au

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'One-stop-shop' for tax, customs training under new deal

Edward O'Daly

11 April 2006: The University's Centre for Customs and Excise Studies is to join forces with the Australian Taxation Studies Program (Atax) at the University of New South Wales in the delivery of tax-related training and education.

Under a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed at the National Carillon last Thursday, the two unique centres have agreed to cooperate on the delivery of training, consultancy and research domestically and overseas.

"What we do is very similar and there are so many areas where we complement each other," CCES chief executive David Widdowson said.

"We realised that the people we are dealing with are looking for the total product and together with Atax we can provide the complete solution."

Atax director Chris Evans echoed Professor Widdowson's sentiments.

"There are areas we don't cover and the centre covers them so well," Professor Evans said.

"This MOU means we will be able to offer our clients the opportunity to get the complete package of educational, research and consultancy products in customs, excise and tax."

The deal will allow taxation students to take customs units as part of their studies and vice versa and will allow the two organisations to offer a 'one-stop-shop' to clients in countries where taxation, customs and excise are handled by a single body.

"What do we do is very similar and there are so many areas where we complement each other," CCES chief executive David Widdowson said.

"We realised that the people we are dealing with are looking for the total product and together with Atax we can provide the complete solution."

Atax director Chris Evans echoed Professor Widdowson's sentiments.

"There are areas we don't cover and the centre covers them so well," Professor Evans said.

"This MOU means we will be able to offer our clients the opportunity to get the complete package of educational, research and consultancy products in customs, excise and tax."

The ceremony was attended by representatives of the two universities, joined by members of the Australian Taxation Office, the Australian Customs Service and Business ACT.

Professors Widdowson (left) and Evans exchange commemorative plaques at the signing
Photo: Kimberly Douglas

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au

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Universities to drive sustainable future: ACF president

Edward O'Daly

11 April 2006: Universities are key to any moves towards a sustainable future, Australian Conservation Foundation president Ian Lowe, told a forum on campus last week.

As part of the Critical Issues in Australian Higher Education Series, Professor Lowe argued while the situation current situation was dire, there was still hope as it was not too late to embrace sustainable principles.

"A better world is possible and education is the key," he said.

Professor Lowe began by listing the preconditions for an unsustainable future, including growing consumption, depletions of mineral resources, disrupting the climate, widening inequality and exponential population growth.

"If we were serious about creating an unsustainable future, we're going the right way about it," he said.

However, the overall tone of his talk was not pessimistic. He felt as the environmental situation worsens, politicians will distance themselves from economists and seek advice on a sustainable future.

Together with price signals and regulation, education could help change behaviour, he said, and the role of universities was important as they trained future leaders.

He said the priorities for universities were to produce 'ecologically literate' graduates, be models of best practice in areas such as energy and water use, and to carry out research on the social, political, economic and ecological dimensions of sustainability.

He said degrees should include at least a core course in sustainability, but integration of sustainability into across programs would be a better option.

The next talk in the series will be given by former Vice-Chancellor Don Aitkin on 4 May. Read more...
Conversation classes bring cultures together

Jacquelyn Curtis

11 April 2006: A casual chat or catch-up might seem like a great way to kill time between classes for most students, but for many ELICOS (English language intensive courses for overseas students) students, a casual conversation provides an opportunity to test run their developing English skills.

An informal meeting of the English Conversation Club every Tuesday in the chill-out room behind the bar in Building 1 allows just that.

The conversation groups allow speakers of various languages to get to know each other and improve their English.

Photo: Michelle Khoo

ELICOS students attending club have the chance to put their new skills into practice in a casual and relaxed environment.

The students are given the opportunity to develop day-to-day conversation skills with each other, and with TESOL (teaching English to speakers of other languages) students.

Alison Davies, ELICOS director of studies, says the club is beneficial for both the ELICOS students and the TESOL students, who are learning to teach them.

As well as an opportunity to practice English conversation, the groups provide a chance for the students to get to know each other and other students on campus.

"It is open to students across campus who want to have a conversation and meet students," Ms Davies said.

Trefor Roberts, an MA TESOL student, said the club is a step in the right direction for opening up communications between native and non-native English speakers.

"I get a lot out of speaking to these international students," he said. "I learn an awful lot."

Mr Roberts encouraged the wider campus community, especially native speakers of English to embrace non-native speakers, and to take the first steps in communicating with them.

"Native speakers should take the initiative," he said. "Some magic has got to happen that loosens non-native communication to native speakers and vice versa.

"Until we're doing all the right things with overseas students we will be inhibiting our own understanding in dealing with anyone international."
Swedish deal opens new exchange opportunities

Gaye Morrison

11 April 2006: The University of Canberra has signed a new student and staff exchange agreement with the prestigious Jonkoping University in Sweden.

This agreement will allow University of Canberra students to take part in a semester or yearlong study program in Sweden, taking credit for their degree.

Åsa Bejdevi, deputy director international, from Jonkoping's School of Education and Communication, along with colleagues Maria Fullsta (international student coordinator) and Carina Hedfors (accommodation coordinator) met with staff members from the University of Canberra's Division of Communication and Education to discuss the close links between subject areas.

University of Canberra study abroad and exchange manager, Kate Smart, is delighted with the agreement.

"Sweden is a very popular country for Australians to visit, and the fact that there is a great variety of subjects (within the School of Education and Communication) taught in English, our students can get a challenging cross cultural experience while taking courses that will help them complete their degree," she said.
Edward O'Daly

4 April 2006

Of all the sentiments you might expect someone to feel towards a would-be assassin, gratitude is an unlikely one and Ahmed Adam admits it took him by surprise.

Mr Adam, a University of Canberra creative writing graduate, was in a refugee camp in Kenya when he was attacked. He had been forced to flee his native Sudan, but his continuing interest in the political situation in his home country had brought him to the attention of some ruthless people.

Mr Adam is working on his next books, as well as putting together a proposal for an astrophysics PhD.

He was wounded in the attack and a friend lost several fingers as he attempted to grab the assassin’s knife. When the police reported they had been paid bribes to turn a blind eye to future incidents, it became clear to the United Nations, which ran the camp, that they could no longer protect Mr Adam.

He applied to Australia for asylum and arrived in his new home in 1998. It was as he settled into life here and realised he was free from the daily struggle of life in the camps, that he felt a surprising emotion towards the people who had wanted him dead.

“I thought, thank you,” he said.

“If that had not happened I would still be there or I would have taken arms.”

Since arriving he has completed a Master of Creative Writing degree and had his first book published last month.

Fish from Sky was completed as part of his studies and while it is not autobiographical, it concerns life as a refugee in Africa, chronicling a young Sudanese woman’s experiences in a refugee camp where fish fall from the sky.

“Even though this book is fiction, some of it is actually what happened.”

Mr Adam, who studied maths and then physics at university in Sudan, is not a typical creative writing student, but he believes the things the course has taught him about himself make it applicable to anyone.

“Creative writing has opened my brain,” he said.

“This course should be compulsory - it gives you the tools to be a better human being.”

He is currently working on a PhD proposal that will combine his creativity and scientific expertise to research astrophysics.

Life in Canberra might be going well for Mr Adam, who holds dual nationality and says he will feel homesick for Australia if he returns to Africa, but he still feels a sense of responsibility towards his homeland.

“When I left my village to go to university, it was my responsibility to go back there and make things better.

“Each migrant has a responsibility to develop communication between his/her new society and the society he/she came from.”

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au

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Roaming males versus stay-at-home females

Jacquelyn Curtis

4 April 2006: Do males have it easier than females? The debate continues; but for arboreal geckos a study conducted by a former University of Canberra postdoctoral fellow shed new light on gender differences and survival rates.

Bernd Gruber, a scientist at UFZ (Centre for Environmental Research) in Leipzig, Germany, gave a lecture last month to present his findings of his study as part of the Institute for Applied Ecology Seminar Series.

Entitled Should I stay or should I go? Movement and survival in a capture recapture framework, Dr Gruber’s study examined the Gehyra varieata gecko, nocturnal woodland creatures that reside in pairs in trees.

Dr Gruber undertook a nine-month postdoctoral fellowship in 2003 at the University after completing fieldwork in Australia.

Dr Gruber said he was very pleased to do the fieldwork in Australia, as it was “very cold in Germany” and that meant lots of “office work”.

His study used ‘capture-mark-recapture’ data to analyse how moving between trees affected the survival rate of the geckos.

The study showed the mortality rate was higher when moving from tree to tree, as the exposure to predators was increased. He also discovered that males preferred to rove about, while the females liked to stay at home.

The study also examined the effect of a ‘territorial index’ - how territorial a gecko is - on the survival rate, as the Gehyra varieata was known to be both a territorial and non-territorial animal in relation to their habitat.

The extent of the territorial index became a co-variable which established that the higher the territorial index, the higher the survival rate.

In other words, although males moved around between trees more than the females, females had a lower basic survival rate, resulting in an even sex ratio.

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au

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Harmony week bigger and better than ever

Jacquelyn Curtis

4 April 2006: This year's Harmony Week brought an exciting program of multicultural celebrations to the University when it was celebrated on 21 to 24 March.

Harmony week was launched to coincide with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and aims to encourage diversity and tolerance between people from all backgrounds and to take a stand against racism and prejudice.

The University launched into this year's Harmony Week on the Tuesday (21 March), with more than 300 guests and an array of speakers and performers from the University and wider community participating in the official launch held in the refectory.

Wednesday brought the University its very own multicultural festival with student performances to entertain visiting VIPs from the Thai, Indonesian and Brunei Embassies, as well as the University community.

Harmony Project coordinator, Leonie-Ruth Acland said the participation by many people from various walks of life was a positive reflection of the objective of Harmony Week.

"We saw a modelling of what harmony is all about," she said. "It's about bringing a community together with common goals."

Thursday saw a harmonious shift in focus to environmental harmony, with the official premiere of University of Canberra graduate Lee Moskwa's short film on environmental sustainability, titled 'How green is my campus.'

The fourth annual Harmony Awards were presented on Friday, with Chancellor Ingrid Moses presenting a record number of prizes and commendations to recipients who had demonstrated commitment to harmony.

Ms Acland described this year's Harmony Week as "absolutely fantastic".

"All the comments we've been getting is that it has been the best Harmony Week the University has ever had," she said.

The Harmony Project team is now enjoying a break, if somewhat short-lived, before preparations for next year begin.

"The Harmony Project doesn't stand still for long," Ms Acland said.
Garden theme sows seeds of harmony

Jacquelyn Curtis

4 April 2006: The University of Canberra's annual Harmony Week, to coincide with United Nations Harmony Day, delivered a message on tolerance and acceptance of diversity.

Harmony Week was officially launched on Wednesday in the refectory, where the stage was adorned with colourful handmade paper flowers to represent the Harmony Week theme, 'many flowers, one garden'.

Leonie-Ruth Acland, Harmony Day coordinator, described the theme as a "picturesque way the world should be", adding there was a serious message behind Harmony Week.

"It's not just froth and bubble," she said. "Harmony Week calls for the end to racial violence and discrimination."

The official guest speaker for the launch, Diana Abdul Rahman, a well-known personality in Islamic circles and activist for multicultural and interfaith activities, urged people in Australia to find common ground for unity.

"We are many flowers with different colours and different leaves," she said. "Some are huge, some are small, some are magnificent; but we are all living in the one garden."

"Let's make our garden interesting. We need to keep our differences, but understand each other."

Following the official speeches there were performances by students from the Islamic School of Canberra and a dance performance by University student group Soul-to-Sole.

Members of the audience we then invited to participate in creating a Harmony Week 'flowers of one garden' display. Using the handmade flowers decorating the stage, audience members first swapped flowers with each other in order to meet someone new, and then planted the flowers into the garden bed outside building two.

Audience members were also encouraged to sign the Harmony Week guest book and were given plant seeds to continue the 'garden of diversity'.

Other Harmony Day activities included free henna tattooing on the concourse and celebrations for Hindu and Baha'i New Year, which coincides with Harmony Day.
Lecturers' website is fun and games for all

Jacquelyn Curtis

4 April 2006: A shared passion for using fun and games in education inspired two lecturers to establish a new website for the UC Experiential Learning Network, in the hope of 'opening up to the public' the benefits of learning through fun and games.

Formerly the known as Learning Through Fun & Games in Higher Education, the network initially aimed to get people sharing ideas on campus, and amongst higher educators, but the launch of a new website will allow the network to expand.

James Neill, a psychology lecturer, together with Ros Byrne, a CELTS (Centre for the Enhancement of Learning, Teaching and Scholarship) fellow and School of Professional Education adjunct lecturer, advocate the use of fun and games activities in education as a means of facilitating deep learning.

"Students think they can sit and hide in the corner to get through the class," Mr Neill said. "Fun and games gets them more involved and makes it more challenging for students."

Ms Byrne added that learning substantive content through games and activities facilitates "more than surface understanding".

The network previously ran its website through EdNA, a free service provided by Education Network Australia, where members could participate in online discussions and share experiences.

The new website is part of the Google Group network, which will allow wider use as it is not "locked away behind passwords", according to Mr Neill.

"Google Groups is more international, and UC can become the leader of the group in a sense," Mr Neill said.

With 180 participants on board, the website is a testament to the potential to successfully incorporate fun and games into teaching and learning.

"Fun and games are cheap and easy," Mr Neill said. "It costs nothing. It's just a bit of innovative teaching."

If you are interested in ideas on using fun and games or have some ideas of your own to share, you can connect with other interested colleagues via the website or contact:

james.neill@canberra.edu.au or ros.byrne@canberra.edu.au

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au

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Course for Chinese students develops quality auditors

Gaye Morrison

4 April 2006: “Be sceptical, evidence based, possess personal courage, diplomacy and have good communication skills.”

These are the qualities Australia’s deputy auditor-general Steve Chapman believes are vital for good auditors. Mr Chapman was the guest speaker at a presentation of course completion certificates for a group of 20 students from the Chinese National Audit Office.

The auditors completed the course after five months in Australia
Photo: Kimberly Douglas

The students arrived in Australia in November last year for a five-month course prepared especially for them by the University of Canberra's Professional Management Programs.

The course covered performance audit, financial audit and accounting in public and private sectors and from Australian and international perspectives. The group comprised experienced accountants and auditors, many from the Office’s Beijing HQ and provincial offices.

Performance audit plays a key role in improving accountability and transparency in many modern systems of government. The recent decisions in China to embrace performance audit and to make public from 1 July 2006 the reports of the Auditor-General, can only serve to strengthen governance within the country.

Deborah Ralston, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Division of Business, Law and Information Sciences officially presented the certificates to the students, in the presence of the Vice-Chancellor Roger Dean.

"Sending 20 middle to senior level officers to another country for five months was a substantial commitment for the Chinese National Audit Office," Professor Ralston said.

"It also reinforced that the University of Canberra is internationally competitive in this rapidly growing area of public administration."

Zhang Haiyan (Judy) was elected to speak on behalf of the student group and she praised the University for the quality of the course and for the memorable experiences they all shared.

In particular she said that the students enjoyed the beautiful Canberra environment and believed that the students entered fully into the spirit of multicultural education offered to them at the University.
Musical highlights at ceremony for immigration officials

Gaye Morrison

4 April 2006: The strong relationship between Australia and Indonesia was emphasised during a ceremony to present certificates to 14 senior immigration officials from Indonesia who completed a six-week course at the University of Canberra's English Language Institute.

One of the highlights of last Friday's ceremony was powerful and melodic singing of traditional Australian and Indonesian songs.

The immigration officials come from their department's Jakarta headquarters and a number of regional offices. Indonesia will be hosting high-level immigration conferences this year in addition to the ASEAN regional conference, therefore high order English language skills are vital.

The course included professional writing, and language associated with formal presentations, meetings and negotiations, and international conference management.

Special guest at the proceedings was Jim O'Callahan of the Australian Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs. Mr O'Callahan said he was proud of the relationship which exists between the Indonesian and Australian departments, which he believes is a reflection of the relationship which exists between the two countries.

Mr O'Callahan presented the certificates together with the University of Canberra's executive director of Development and International, Jandy Godfrey.

Indonesian immigration official Andry Indrady spoke at the ceremony on behalf of his colleagues and listed two major highlights of the course. The first was learning about the Indigenous people of Australia and the second was the visit to Parliament House and viewing question time.

The course was sponsored by Australia's Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, which approached the University of Canberra English Language Institute to develop the specialist course.
New CELTS director opens lecture series

Jacquelyn Curtis

4 April 2006: Yoni Ryan, new director of CELTS (Centre for Learning, Research and Teaching and Scholarship), gave the first lecture as part of the University's Professorial Public Lecture Series which gives newly appointed professors the chance to be introduced to the University community and to demonstrate the scope of their expertise.

In introducing the lecture series and Professor Ryan, Pro Vice-Chancellor John Dearn said he hoped the lecture would be the "first of many" in the series.

Formerly from Monash University and Queensland University of Technology, Professor Ryan took up her position at the University in January this year.

The lecture was titled 'Borderless education: Has it been good business?' and covered Professor Ryan's research interests on the impact of globalisation on education systems including curriculum and student online support.

With most Australian universities engaging in various forms of cross-cultural education programs, Professor Ryan discussed how predictions in the 1990s of an exponential growth in cyber education had not eventuated beyond the use of new web-based technologies in higher education.

Drawing on her experiences as a consultant for DEST (Department of Education, Science and Training), Professor Ryan outlined some of the failures and successes of 'the business of borderless education' arguing mixed results suggested a recognition that blended delivery mode of face-to-face teaching and online resources is more beneficial for student retention and graduation.

Professor Ryan examined the growing use of export branch campuses - where a university delivers courses from premises overseas - by "38 out of Australia's 39 universities" which offer trans-national education.

She argued that because offshore enrolments are predicted to outnumber onshore enrolments within the next five to 10 years, it was important to "ensure global education activities are good business".

"We can only do this if we work with both countries' staff and students in a genuine partnership," she said.

"There must be mutual commitment to the common objective of education, not profit."
Review - Mass Appeal

By Gaye Morrison

28 March 2006: The UC Players production Mass Appeal is being held at the University in the Gallery Restaurant (Clive Price Suite) in Building 1. This is an intimate atmosphere which suits very much this style of production, particularly as there are only two actors.

Father Tim Farley, played by Dan Cole is a priest who likes to be popular and is keen to mentor the young trainee priest Mark Dolson (played by Peter Holland). This mentoring is less about faith and doing good, as about keeping in favour with the higher authorities of the Church. Of course the advantage of the small cast is that the characters are able to be conveyed to the audience – their passions and flaws become wholly evident.

The main strength of Mass Appeal however is that it will strike a chord in the lives of those who have been involved with organised religion. It is often easy in such productions to take a cynical and prejudiced view of religion and present it as empty and hollow. The play avoids this pitfall. Whilst it becomes evident that a degree of cunning and planning is required for the young trainee priest to stay in the seminary, it is more about human nature than the nature of those who don the religious cloth.

Saturday night saw a happy crowd who appreciated the material and the actors. This is a witty production which, combined with a lovely meal, makes for a pleasant night. I was placed on a table with some lovely folk from out of Canberra, and if I have a criticism, it would be that more signage around the Campus would avoid confusion for those who have not been to this venue before.
International students welcomed to the national capital by Olympic gymnast

By Kaddie Pass

28 March 2006: When Olympic gymnast and University of Canberra graduate, Brennon Dowrick, unveiled a pommel horse at the Welcome Reception for this year’s international students, the audience knew they were in for an unusual presentation.

Brennon spoke to a captivated audience at Old Parliament House last week before launching, fully suited, into his gym routine.

Interspersed with words of wisdom for the 2006 students, Brennon told his story of attaining his dream to win gold by stripping down, superman style, to his gym gear and re-enacting the pommel horse routine that scored a 9.9 at the 1990 Commonwealth Games and earned him a gold medal.

Puffing from the exertion (I performed this when I was 18 and now I’m 34), Brennon stressed it was important that students take away with them three things necessary to achieve their goals – strong foundations, offered by the student ambassador program, self belief and most importantly, teamwork as individuals.

The new students were also given a warm welcome by Mary Porter MLA who spoke of the advantages to studying in Canberra, citing its high reputation as an education destination, and the fact that it houses both the seat of government and the diplomatic community.

Student ambassador Laviinia Dhanagunan, advised her fellow students to make full use of their time.

“Times like these are very hard to find again. Get as much as you can from your stay here, personally and academically, and make it a year that is full of memories,” she said.
UC makes a splash with twin water announcements

Gaye Morrison

22 March 2006: The University of Canberra will mark World Water Day with two major announcements around water.

eWater, a new cooperative research centre (CRC) based on campus, will be launched tonight and the University has also thrown its support behind a feasibility study into a Waterscape - a water innovations expo to be hosted by the University.

The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister with special responsibility for water policy will launch the eWater CRC. The CRC is a new commercial business as well as the largest Australian R&D organisation focusing solely on the water cycle.

Guests at the function this evening at Regatta Point will include leading academics in the field Professors Peter Cullen AO and John Langford AM, as well as other senior water industry, water policy and water environment figures from across the eastern states.

The National Capital Authority has agreed to run the Captain Cook Memorial water Jet from 5pm to 8pm, with blue light, to celebrate both United Nations World Water Day and the launch of eWater CRC.

The Waterscape concept is for a permanent, working, water-innovations showcase, or 'expo', where visiting international delegations, business clients and the public can readily see the best Australia has to offer in water management and technology.

It will bring together water research, government, and commercial interests, in one venue. Water innovations outside Canberra will be networked into the expo through 'best practice' innovation sites across Australia.

Vice-Chancellor Roger Dean noted the idea of a major showcase for all aspects of the water cycle, for pure research to the commercialised product is complementary to the innovations precinct at the University.

"When the first stage of the Innovations Centre was opened in 2004 it was always envisaged that the centre would grow in a way which reflects the nature of the University and would create a vital connection between the University and commerce. Waterscape would be a valuable enhancement to the University's innovations precinct," Professor Dean said.

It is expected that the feasibility study will be complete by mid 2006.
Winter games ‘one of most special things’ in student’s life

Edward O’Daly

22 March 2006. The opening ceremony was the highlight of cross-country skier Esther Bottomley’s experience at the 2006 Winter Olympics.

Speaking to Monitor on her return, Ms Bottomley, a graphic design student, admitted she was disappointed with her performance at the games after illness disrupted her final preparations, but said going to the games was “one of the most special things” she has ever done.

The highlight was definitely the opening ceremony,” she said.

“Walking into the stadium with the rest of the Australian team was something I will never forget.”

Against the very best in the world, she came 52nd out of a field of 66, but had been hoping for a top-30 place in line with her pre-Games performances, which would have qualified her for the finals.

“I’d spent three days in bed with a cold and you need a lot of lung capacity for my event.”

She said nerves had not been a problem in competition - the pressure of competing in the Olympics was nothing to the pressure of trying to qualify.

“Ther’s about 20 or 30 seconds when you’re warming up and you take it all in - the flags, the crowds - then it’s just like any other race: you ski as fast as you can.”

One difference, she said, was having her family watching. This was the first time they had seen her compete internationally.

“They had a ball, they made a bit of a holiday out of it,” she said.

Ms Bottomley also had a great time in Turin, not just in her event and the opening ceremony, but celebrating her 23rd birthday in the athletes village and supporting her team mates in the luge, bobsleigh and skeleton.

“It was really fun.”

Back in Canberra the hard work of study has begun and Ms Bottomley is catching up on the classes she’s missed and hopes to complete her degree this year, ready to concentrate on the World Championships in Japan in February.

“I love skiing at the moment, but at the same time I don’t want to fail uni and there’s no point putting rubbish in my portfolio because I want to get a job. Skiing’s expensive so I need to earn good money.”

The hectic pace of training will continue as she has her sights set on top 30 spots in future competitions, but Ms Bottomley says sport and university compliment each other nicely as she can “switch off from one and still be doing something useful” - plus the cost of the sport makes at least one of the pressures of student life easier to bear.

“My HECS debt is the last thing on my mind,” she said.
Former student launches documentary and career

Jacquelyn Curtis

22 March 2006: A short documentary about sustainable development at the University titled 'How green is my campus' will be launched on Thursday as part of Harmony Week.

For one of the students behind the project, co-director Lee Moskwa, the launch marks the end of "a lot of hard work" and the beginning of a promising career in multimedia and documentary making.

What began as research for his final year of communications degree in media/multimedia led to achieving a grant from HealthPACT, a subsidiary of the government to help fund the project.

"I did a research paper for a class and I thought well I've already got this grant, I know a lot about this topic, I'll just do it from my major assignment," he said.

Mr Moskwa co-directed the project with fellow University of Canberra graduate Daniel Sanguineti and a number of other students from the university worked as behind the scenes crew.

Mr Moskwa approached the harmony project team about incorporating the documentary into Harmony Week events, as it's message about educating the community seemed appropriate.

"It seemed to fit in because it's a week that everyone's a community and talking to each other," he said.

Although Mr Moskwa admits it might be a while before we see his work at Tropfest, he said the experience gained in creating the documentary was invaluable, as success in the industry depended upon "experience, you have to do things yourself."

While the film makes it debut on Thursday, Mr Moskwa is also looking forward to taking up his next project, as an international consultant for projects in Thailand.

"This didn't lead directly to it," he said. "But it helped a lot to get that job."
Women's careers given boost by new program

Nicky Connor

**22 March 2006:** There is a new program to help female staff identify and develop their strengths and encourage them to apply for promotions.

Launched at the Women's Professional Development Committee cocktail party earlier this month, the Women's Career Directions Program allows women to apply for funds to undertake activities that support the aims of the program. It accompanies staff development and training programs already on offer, including the Outside Studies Program for academic staff and the Professional Development Program for general staff.

"This program signals the University's commitment to more women in leadership positions and provides the means for them to develop their skills," equity and diversity director Dianne Coward said.

"We're putting our money where our mouth is."

Some of the activities that will be supported include; attending a short course on career planning, leadership or transition to management, undertaking executive coaching, either individually or in a group, shadowing a more senior person either at the University or another institution, a relevant placement in industry, government department or statutory authority, attending a workshop or seminar conducted by a female role model, and attending a conference about women in leadership.

Women may apply directly or be nominated by their supervisor, joint applications from teams are also welcome.

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au

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'Jargon-free' applications stressed at higher ed forum

Edward O'Daly

22 March 2006: Staff from all four of Canberra's universities attended the first in the Higher Education Forum: Critical Issues Series for 2006 to hear Elizabeth McDonald from the Carrick Institute outline its priorities and directions for the year, and the broad guidelines for the Grants and Teaching Awards programs.

Dr McDonald stressed the importance of clear and jargon-free prose in applications, and avoiding applications for projects that were 'core university business', to be funded out of the university's own operating grants. Proposals are due over April and May, and teaching citations for 10 staff are encouraged from each university.

Many of the 35 attendees at the CELTS-hosted event stayed to share a light lunch and speak informally with Dr McDonald on their ideas for projects.

"A number of University staff have already indicated their interest in seeking funding under the program, and CELTS is more than happy to assist in crafting good proposals," CELTS director Yoni Ryan said.

The next speaker in the Critical Issues series is Ian Lowe, director of the Australian Conservation Foundation, speaking on the role universities could and should play in sustainability, on 6 April at 12.30.

Following Professor Lowe, Don Aitkin will speak on the past and future of Australia's universities.

A University of Canberra-focussed series of talks kicks off on 30 March at 12.30pm CELTS seminar room, with 'Assessing online group work: A thorny issue', an early report from the successful University Carrick Grant team.
Japanese students miss Australian food, drink, friends

Edward O’Daly

22 March 2006: Australian cuisine is among the things students from Fukuoka University will miss most from their time studying in Australia.

Speaking after the official farewell for the 34 students last Friday, group leaders Mayu Miyahara and Junichi Terada said they would miss their host families, before identifying the culinary pleasures they would pine for when they got home.

Japanese students were presented with certificates at the ceremonies on Friday and Tuesday

Photo: Edward O’Daly

Ms Miyahara, who said she enjoyed the excursions that were a key part of the specialist English language/Australian culture course run by the University of Canberra English Language Institute (UCELI), revealed she had developed a taste for crumpets during her stay.

"Aussie beer is very delicious," Mr Terada added.

After receiving their certificates the students presented a range of performances, including a martial arts movie skit, a parody of life with a homestay family, a unique version of Waltzing Matilda and amusing examples of the cultural experiences they had had during their stay.

The contribution of host families to the student experience was highlighted by UCELI short course director John Peak, at the event attended by many of the students' adopted parents and siblings.

"At least 50 per cent of what the students gain from these courses is contributed from the time spent with host families," he said.

A certificate presentation ceremony for students from Chukyo University in Nagoya was held yesterday, the 21 psychology students attended psychology lectures in addition to English language classes.
Library trains students in research tools of the trade

Jacquelyn Curtis

22 March 2006: Students can start the academic year with a right note by taking part in a number of library training sessions catering for beginners to advanced researchers.

The sessions range from a multi-disciplinary beginners training, to advanced research in focus areas to helpful sessions on how to use bibliographic tools.

The research skills training offers beginners the opportunity to view demonstrations of databases such as Expanded Academic Index, EBSCO and Informit; as well as the opportunity to get ‘hands on’ and try using them.

Edwina Hyman, librarian and information manager, hosted a training session, where she showed students how to find journal articles using databases and library research guides.

She said the combination of demonstration and hands on training gave the students the opportunity to try out the skills they had learned.

"I like to encourage participation," she said. "I know what it's like to be a student."

Beginning in week five, advanced training sessions will be held, focusing on developing research skills in specific areas, including communication, sciences, law and education.

Ms Hyman said these sessions were a little more technical and subject focused, to enhance students' research skills.

For students who need help referencing and compiling bibliographies, the library also offers information sessions on how to use RefWorks and EndNote.

RefWorks is a bibliographic tool for managing and organising references through web based software. RefWorks trainer Debbie Mudin said it was a "way of gathering together all references in one place."

The program allows for the importation of references from five sources, including exporting directly from databases.

It also works in conjunction with Microsoft Word to compile citations and reference list.

The library training sessions are open to anyone, and a booking is not required. Session times are posted on the library website.

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au

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Students hop into graduate job fair

Jacquelyn Curtis

28 March 2006: They came to find their dream job. They came to find career direction. They came to find out about recruitment. They came to find freebies!

Hundreds of tertiary students packed into the AIS Arena on Thursday afternoon for the Tertiary to Work 2006 graduate job fair, and as ambition and motivation ran hot, so did the barbeque greeting job seekers at the door.

With more than 75 organisations attending, the arena was full of students wielding canvas goodie bags filled with an array of treasures including everything from pens to jelly beans to coffee mugs, as both students and prospective employers vied to leave a lasting impression.

A wide range of organisations from government departments, to accountancy and law firms to large multi-national companies offered students the opportunity to find out about recruitment and application processes, as well as personal advice from employees.

University of Canberra careers manager Heather Jack described the atmosphere on the day as “buzzing” as she and fellow career services employees from Canberra’s tertiary institutions guided students around the event.

Also on offer was the chance to attend free workshops, entitled ‘Applications that get you short listed’ and “You’ve got the interview, now get the job!”

Communications and journalism student Lavinia Dhanagunan said she attended the fair on the advice of a friend, and hoped to find out how to get a job.

“It was quite good, and very interesting,” she said.

“I found out about a couple of companies that I will apply to.”
Feeling ill after eating is 'just not normal'

Jacquelyn Curtis

22 March 2006: Next time you see someone in the aisle of the supermarket intensely examining labels on food products, don't write them off as the newest diet devotee - they may suffer from coeliac disease.

Coeliac disease is a condition in which sufferers are intolerant to gluten and wheat products. For personnel officer Fiona Evans and many other sufferers, this means a lifetime of making informed choices about food and sticking to a gluten-free diet.

Ms Evans wants to increase awareness of coeliac sufferers
Photo: Kimberly Douglas

"In the beginning, it took me nearly three hours to do my first grocery shop," Mrs Evans said. "But now I know a lot of the labels."

Mrs Evans has suffered from coeliac disease since she was in her twenties, and even though she had some of the symptoms, she was not diagnosed with coeliac disease.

"You can go along like I did for years and years, thinking that 'oh, I've just got a sensitive stomach,'" she said. "It got to the point where I was too scared to eat, too scared of what would happen to me."

Mrs Evans eventually discovered the true nature of her condition when she acted upon advice from a health food store to eliminate wheat and gluten products from her diet.

"I went totally gluten free, and I've been better since," she said.

According to Mrs Evans the objective of awareness week is to educate the public by "spreading the word to not put up with what I went through."

"It is estimated one in 200 people live with coeliac disease, and many of them are unaware."
Stone me - it's an elephant

Edward O'Daly

14 March 2006: The mystery of the elephant on campus appears to have been solved - the campus's largest visitor was the winning item in a 1976 Stone Week scavenger hunt.

The only other explanation we have been offered has been thanks to the Canberra Times, which took up the cause last week, with readers suggesting the elephant was a cast member in a production of Aida.

Was the elephant borrowed from the circus for Stone Week?

View larger image
Photo: Helene Walsh or John Houldsworth

Recently-retired staff member Helene Walsh recalls the elephant appeared in Stone Week "in either 1976 or 77".

"Either myself or John Houldsworth, also a photographer at CCAE, took the picture," she said.

"I know I was there with my camera and took some photographs."

She said the circus was in town and she believed the students had negotiated with the elephant's owners to borrow it for a scavenger hunt. She also recalled the elephant spraying the small crowd of onlookers with water from a bucket.

Other items "borrowed" in subsequent Stone Weeks (week long class-free periods celebrating the CCAE's foundation) included Gundagai's Dog on the Tuckerbox statue and the plaque from the top of Mount Ainslie, she said.

University painter Bob Foster confirmed the year was 1976. He started work on campus in 1977, when memories of the elephant were still fresh in his colleagues' minds.

Readers of the Canberra Times' CC column recalled an elephant travelling the streets of the capital on the back of a flat bed truck en route to its starring role in a huge production of Aida near the campus. The 1981 production at the then National Indoor Sports Stadium in Bruce had a cast of 400, with 10 horses also among the animal actors.

If you know who "borrowed" the elephant or have another explanation, please let us know.

monitor@canberra.edu.au
Chancellor's success built on study, sacrifices, support

Nicky Connor

14 March 2006: New Chancellor Ingrid Moses told University women how to have it all - given hard work, supportive husband and people who sponsored her - at last week's cocktail party to launch the new Career Directions Program.

Professor Moses spoke openly about her life at the event, which was organised by the Women's Professional Development Committee.

Born into a middle class family in Germany, Professor Moses was chosen to spend a year in the United States as an exchange student while still at school. She met her Australian husband John when she was at university in the south of Germany.

They married and when he returned to Australia to take up a position at the University of Queensland she followed when she had finished her degree in social sciences.

In Brisbane she had two sons in quick succession and worked part-time while the children were young.

She started her career as a graduate assistant in the Tertiary Education Institute of the University of Queensland, an environment in which Professor Moses said she "flourished".

"I was lucky to work in an institute where the director treated all staff the same, whether they were academic or support staff," she said.

This level of respect enabled her to feel confident volunteering her opinions and ideas, "as long as they could be backed up", she remarked.

She made the leap from administration to an academic position after doing her masters at the University of Queensland.

While doing her PhD Professor Moses said she was lucky to have a supportive husband who would pick up the children from school and cook the evening meal - the time she knew she was most creative.

Soon after completing her PhD she was appointed founding director of the Centre for Learning and Teaching at UTS.

In 1993 she joined the University of Canberra as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic), then Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and eventually as the only Deputy Vice-Chancellor. She was then headhunted for the position of Vice-Chancellor at the University of New England in Armidale, which she joined in mid-1997. And now she has returned to Canberra as Chancellor.

So how did she do it?

Professor Moses believes that hard work, sacrifices, and having a mentor who truly believed in her helped her to get where she is today. She also credits her supportive husband and tolerant children.

She closed her speech with one final piece of advice: "Wherever there are opportunities, just grasp them and make them work in your favour. When you make a choice, make it a success."
Careers frog urges students to hop to it

Edward O'Daly

14 March 2006: If you thought you were seeing things on the concourse last Wednesday don't worry, there really was a giant frog handing out flyers to students.

The frog's mission was to promote the forthcoming Tertiary to Work graduate job fair at the Australian Institute of Sport on Thursday, continuing the 'hop to it' theme of the event's posters, which was the brainchild of graphic design student Cassandra Balding (read the earlier story).

Working up a sweat in the suit was Henry Makeham from the ANU careers office and if you missed him, there'll be a second chance to see the frog tomorrow.

University of Canberra careers manager Heather Jack said the fair was a great way for students leapfrog into the graduate recruitment process.

"Large companies and departments often take many months to complete their Australia wide recruitment process, so final year students need to apply now in order to have employment ready after graduation," she said.

Students can find all the information about this year's fair, including the free bus timetable and a list of participating employers, on the website at http://www.canberra.edu.au/tertiary-to-work/2006/
Mountain kingdom's representatives visit campus

Edward O’Daly

14 March 2006: A high-level delegation from the Kingdom of Bhutan visited the University last week.

Secretary of the Royal Civil Service Commission of Bhutan, Dasho Bap Kesang was joined by director of the country's Royal Institute of Management, Sonam Phuntsho, and Civil Service Commission colleague Lhawang Yugel for the afternoon visit, which included a tour of the campus and meetings with senior University staff.

"I'm delighted to be able to visit your university," Mr Kesang told Vice-Chancellor Roger Dean, adding that many of the University's Bhutanese alumni were enjoying successful careers.

Speaking to the Monitor, Mr Phuntsho said institutional and political reforms in the kingdom meant the delegation was keen to find ways to build on Bhutan's management skills.

The delegation was joined on its tour of the campus by Bhutanese students Thinley Rinzin, who is studying a Master of Public Administration, and Sonam Tobgay, who is doing a Master of Professional Accounting.

Mr Rinzin, an employee of Bhutan's Ministry of Education, who is studying on a Kingdom of Bhutan scholarship, said the course was challenging, but was going well.

"The academic skills I am learning at University will be very helpful when I go back to Bhutan," he added.

The visitors are meeting with a number of universities in Australia looking for appropriate courses for around 150 Bhutanese government sponsored students. In addition AusAID currently supports 28 Bhutanese students in Australia.
Women's day talk makes deep impression

Edward O'Daly

14 March 2006: The Women of Influence Lecture & Breakfast made a deep impression on the University staff who attended last week's event.

The speaker at the event, held at ANU to mark International Women's Day was Kerry Tim from the Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination in the ACT.

Pastoral care worker Liz Brumer said the talk had made a "profound impression" on her personal and professional development.

"Her story was presented, not in lecture form, but as a kaleidoscope of her inner world & how she marries it with her outer world. Her emphasis was that work & personal life are integrated, the importance of mentoring & always doing the very best you can, no matter how small or large the task," she said.

"The caring and communicating with all those who cross our paths, in the patchwork of life, is the essence of true harmony."
Students march in Sydney Mardi Gras

Jessica Rodgers

14 March 2006: Four students from the University of Canberra Queer Collective, UCan Q, marched in the 28th Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras in Sydney on Saturday 4 March.

The students participated in the cross campus Queer Student Network (QSN) float, named ‘Queer Revolt’ with about 40 other students from NSW and the ACT.

Jess Rodgers, Caroline Baudon and Rob Graf were among the students who travelled from Canberra to Sydney to take part in the procession

‘Queer Revolt’, one of 107 floats in the parade, had an anti-VSU theme and used the slogan ‘Still out, still proud’.

Students sported red and black outfits in the style of 60s, 70s and 80s fashions to represent the history of queer activism.

On the Friday preceding the parade, 45 QSN members also attended a mini-conference at Sydney’s University of Technology.

Students discussed a range of topics from Indigenous sexual health to the fight to repeal the ban on same-sex marriage and win full equality for same-sex couples and from the freeing of queer refugees to how to fight for and win queer spaces on campuses where none exist.

UCan Q member Caroline Baudon said: “It was an unbelievable experience, with so many fantastic people.

"It's rare to see any conference go so well. A lot of very interesting information was discussed, and it was heart warming to be with people who care and want to make a difference.”
Monitor seeks answers in jumbo photo mystery

Edward O'Daly

7 March 2006: As Monitor staff did some long-overdue filing last week, they were surprised to discover a photo of an elephant among pictures of the people, events, haircuts and fashions that have graced the campus over the decades.

The picture was loose in a filing cabinet drawer with nothing written on it to indicate when and why it was taken or by whom and we'd like your help to get to the bottom of the mystery.

The photo has been on display as it has sticky velcro on the back.

The building in the photo looks a lot like building 5

The ground appears to have been torn up by heavy vehicles so perhaps the campus was under construction when the photo was taken.

Domestic animals are banned from the campus today, so the dog that is looking on and presumably the elephant would not be allowed.

Was the elephant helping with construction? Is it here as a Stone Day prank? Were circus studies courses run at the CCAE? Have we been taken in by a piece of digital trickery?

Elephants, we're told, never forget, but hopefully someone found the pachyderm's visit to the University memorable.

The Monitor would be interested to hear from anyone who can explain what's going on in the picture.

monitor@canberra.edu.au
Kayaking coach boasts high degree of water expertise

Jessica Rodgers

7 March 2006: Many coaches boast expertise in their sport, but few have a PhD to back up their sporting knowledge. As a kayaking coach, lecturer Margi Bohm puts her doctorate in fluid mechanics into practice on the water.

Dr Bohm, who has represented her country at the sport, currently voluntarily coaches fourth year secondary physical education student Mark Halpin.

"I'm one of the few people who really understand boats and paddles due to my PhD," she said.

Dr Bohm's PhD was in fluid mechanics and involved looking at turbulence in forest canopies, examining how pollutants gets into canopies and kill plants.

Dr Bohm began coaching in 1995, a year after moving to Australia, and coached large groups in 1998 and 1999 before opting to coach only one or two people at a time.

"I like to work with them very intently," she said.

She was the first woman to represent South Africa when she competed in the 1977 National South African team.

Dr Bohm recalls a photo finish in an international competition in Switzerland, "It was our team and Belgium."

"Belgium won because they had a red boat. The edge of a red boat shows up clearer in the photo finish. From now on I always use a red boat."

Dr Bohm feels by coaching she is giving back what was given to her.

"I was coached in a school program from the age of 12. I get satisfaction from working with the community," she said.

Dr Bohm's training method is called 'teaching talent', and links into the 'enquiry based learning' she uses in the classroom and in the field. It presents the student with two ways of doing a task and asks them to choose one that works the best for them after trying both.

Mr Halpin said: "Margi is a good coach as she is always willing to spend time to help make me go faster."

"She will often spend 14 hours a week coaching me on the water and many weekends away during the racing season travelling."

"With her background in science this allows her to teach me about energy systems and also fluid dynamics."
Jacquelyn Curtis

7 March 2006: No plans for the weekend? Think there is nothing to do in Canberra? Tired of going to the same nightspots? If you answered yes to any of these questions, a University of Canberra student has the remedy to your social predicament.

Management student Ben Ffrench and business partner Tristan Maddigan, who is studying commerce at ANU are the brains behind outincanberra.com.au, 'the definitive guide to drinking and upcoming events' in the capital.

The idea was spawned when the pair were running the Speaker's Corner bar at the Hyatt hotel, and saw the need for a guide to events and venues in Canberra.

"Guests were coming in all the time saying 'where do we go?'" Mr Maddigan said. "We found there was a lack of resources, there were magazines but they were out of date after a month, and so we came up with the idea."

The duo have a combined 18 years experience in the hospitality industry and they find their experience has helped them relate to prospective clients.

"The hospitality industry is hectic," Mr Maddigan said. "Clients appreciate the fact that we understand what they're going through."

Part of the initial motivation behind the business was trying to break down the notion that Canberra is boring.

"You've got to make a bit of an effort in Canberra," Mr Ffrench said. "You can't just go down to the beach, you've got to actually get in the car and go to an event."

"Every night of the week in our 'what's on' calendar there is an event on."

And with more than 400,000 hits a month, it seems word is out that Canberra is event-full.

"There's never not been an event," Mr Ffrench said. "On Valentine's day there was something like 38 events listed on the site."

The website boasts something for every interest, with an extensive range of venues and events listed and constantly updated.

"Because of the broad range of venues we have, it really helps to appeal to a wide demographic," Mr Ffrench said.

Since it was set up two years ago, OutInCanberra has seen a redevelopment of the website, a television and magazine advertising campaign and the addition of two part time staff members. The client list has grown from an initial 50 when the site was launched, to 97 and counting, with the entrepreneurs aiming for 150.
Surf's up for exchange students

Jacquelyn Curtis

7 March 2006: Visiting students experienced one of Australia’s favourite and best-known leisure activities when they learnt to surf.

Fifteen students travelled to Seven Mile Beach in Gerroa, south of Kiama, on 24 February for a two-night stay, with a further 11 students hitting the surf last weekend. The students are in Australia on exchange or as part of the Study Abroad program.

Stephanie Robertson gets the upperhand with a bluebottle
Photo: Mel Sloan

The trip was organised by the Study Abroad Program, and the students from Canada, America, Finland and Japan “had a ball,” according to Study Abroad manager Kate Smart.

“All the students successfully managed to stand up on their boards, much to the chagrin of Ms Smart.

“Everyone apart from me stood up,” she said.

Many students had never attempted surfing before, others like Stephanie Robertson had tried to ride waves before, but never had lessons.

“It was my first time learning to surf with actual instructors,” she said. “It was awesome.”

Ms Robertson said surfing was “super fun” despite experiencing one of the hazards of surfing - an encounter with a blue bottle.

Ms Robertson said she recovered quickly from her brush with the creature, joking she was “a lot more dramatic” than she needed to be during the experience.

“I’ll keep surfing for sure,” she added.
Tours welcome students to the library

Jacquelyn Curtis

7 March 2006: The past two weeks have seen more than 650 students discover there is much more to the University library than simply books, thanks to daily library tours.

Held twice a day, the tours are designed to help students to get to know the library services and layout.

Lachlan de Haan shows some of the resources the library puts at your fingertips
Photo: Jacquelyn Curtis

Students were shown where to locate self-checking machines, the change machine, photocopiers, group study rooms and the student lounge.

The library's new and improved divisional pathfinders - information sheets that guide students to the key resources for their division - were explained to students, as well as where to find research assistants for help in using databases.

One of the tour leaders, Lachlan de Haan, showed students where to locate three hour and seven-day loan books, and explained them of the dangers of returning these books late.

“For a three hour loan it is two dollars per hour, and for a seven day loan it is two dollars per day or part thereof,” he warned.

Students were shown where to find law references, thesis papers and journals.

For many new students taking part in one of the tours was their first visit to the library, and many said afterward the tour would certainly make their next visit easier.
New guide launched as PMP looks to successful year

Edward O'Daly

7 March 2006: There is no excuse for the capital's managers to lose their head in a crisis with the new range of short courses launched by the University's Professional Management Programs (PMP), last week.

Staff, students and short course presenters mingled to the strains of live jazz to mark the launch of the new PMP handbook at the University of Canberra Innovation Centre on Thursday.

New courses on offer for 2006 include: Information Architecture for the Web, Environmental Scanning for Modern Organisations and How to Cope with a Crisis, which covers everything from when call the police to how to brief the media.

Speaking at the launch, PMP director, Jules Wills, said the program had enjoyed an excellent year in 2005 and he was looking forward to an even more success with new courses joining popular offerings.

Dr Wills told Monitor the team could customise training and deliver courses in house as well as on campus.

The launch featured tours of PMP facilities, addresses from Dr Wills and Department of Finance and Administration branch manager Lewis Hawke and a mini-exhibition, with the opportunity to meet course presenters.

For more information visit:

http://www.canberra.edu.au/pmp
Older volunteers to help balance research

Kaddie Pass

28 February 2006: University of Canberra physiotherapists hope active seniors will hold the key to understanding the role the brain plays in 'dumbing down' our feet.

Their research, which received a $50,000 grant from the ACT Government's Health and Medical Research Council, is about to enter a new phase that will look at the effectiveness of using a wobble board for improving balance and falls prevention in the elderly. The researchers believe our feet may be 'dumb' when it comes to sensing uneven surfaces.

"The research looks at how good you are at sensing small differences in the surface you are standing on, and whether this predicts differences in falls, strength, balance and walking," head of the physiotherapy program Gordon Waddington said.

Wobble boards have been an effective treatment in improving balance and stability in younger sports people after an injury.

"What we want to do now is show that's the same case in older individuals," he said.

The researchers are seeking active over 65 year olds as volunteers for the ongoing trial that will be held at The Canberra Hospital.

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au
Voices from the autism field converge at UC

Jessica Rodgers

28 February 2006: Autism practitioners and recipients of autism services discussed some of the challenges they faced when the University of Canberra hosted the inaugural Autism Practitioners Conference last week.

The conference had the theme 'Voices from the field', focused on autism research 'in the field' and provided a forum for educators and allied health professionals to reflect on, compare and present their research.

Beginning on 24 February, the two-day conference, which was attended by about 100 teachers, parents and allied health professionals from across Australia, also provided networking opportunities.

Chair of the conference organising committee and editor of the conference proceedings, Chris Kilham said she was excited about organising the conference.

Dr Kilham hopes the conference becomes biannual and raises the profile of the University's post-graduate autism teaching unit.

"I hope it also promotes disability as a different way of being and arms workers in the field with practical strategies for working with people with autism," she said.

Keynotes speakers were Verity Bottroff, who is head of the Department of Disability Studies at the School of Medicine at Flinders University, and Louise Ulliana, who has more than 25 years experience with teaching special education and working with people with disabilities of all ages.

Dr Bottroff spoke about completed research on the bullying of students with Asperger's disorder.

On the conference Dr Bottroff said: "It is valuable to have an exchange of information, where speakers can gain information about what practitioners and parents are doing in various places."

Kathryn Young special education teacher at Wollondilly Public School in Goulburn said: "There is an increasing need to discuss strategies for educating children with autism."

"Special education teachers are working with more children. The new ideas and hands-on approaches shared here will benefit us on a daily basis."

What is Autism?

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) commonly referred to as 'autism' covers a range of disorders including Autistic disorder, Asperger's disorder and Atypical autism.

ASDs are lifelong disabilities that affect the way a person communicates and relates to other people and the world around them.

People affected by autism typically display major impairments in three areas:

- Social interaction
- Communication
- Behaviour (restricted interests and repetitive behaviours)

ASDs are almost always present at birth but they often do not become evident until the age of 2 or 3 (or 5 or 6 in the case of Asperger's disorder).

Current international research says about 66 people in 10,000 have ASD.

ASDs are about four times more prevalent in males than in females.

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au
Study beckons after 32 years at work

Jessica Rodgers

28 February 2006: Helene Walsh of the Division of Communication and Education has left the University after 32 years.

Ms Walsh, who was given a farewell lunch at the Gallery Café on 16 February, will study at the ANU School of Art.

She started at the Canberra College of Advanced Education in January 1974 as a photographic assistant at the instructional media centre and then worked as a video cinematographer and as an editor.

She was later in charge of maintaining the new media labs in building 9 and managing the television studios, as well as television post-production/editing facilities.

Ms Walsh became an active member of the University's branch of the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) in 1995 when the NTEU first came to represent general staff.

She was a member of the University branch committee in various roles, including secretary, vice-president (general staff) and president.

Ms Walsh, who will be studying photomedia as her major, said she is interested in making video documentaries.

Last year she and three art school colleagues were highly commended in the ANU 'Art of the Documentary Competition'.

Ms Walsh said the main reason she stayed at the University of Canberra so long was because her job had changed so much.

"The work was always interesting and creative," Ms Walsh said.

Ms Walsh hopes that her relationship with the University isn't over yet.

"The vast collection of educational videotapes that were produced by the instructional media centre needs some proper archiving and preservation, and I'd like to be involved in that process," she said.
Scholarships help realise teaching ambition

Edward O'Daly

28 February 2006: Keeping her home and study lives separate isn’t hard for education student Marion Deena - her sons take care of that.

As soon as Ms Deena, who has two scholarships for her bachelor of education in primary teaching, takes on a teacher-like tone, her boys Jay, 12, and Blakey, 10, remind her she’s not in the classroom anymore.

Marion Deena has always wanted to be a teacher and was encouraged to pursue the career by her sons’ teachers

Photo: Edward O'Daly

"Sometimes after a day’s practical, I come home and I’m still in teacher mode, but my sons don’t let me get away with it for long,” she said.

She added the whiteboard she had set up at home was great for helping with the boys’ homework and improving her handwriting.

Ms Deena said being the recipient of both a Lorna May Scholarship, aimed specifically at single mothers, and an access scholarship made student life easier for her and for her family.

Although the cash “didn’t last long”, it helped with everything from buying books to keeping the car on the road to taking her sons away for the weekend, she said.

Now in her third year of study, Ms Deena heard about scholarships in orientation week of her first year, but was unsuccessful in her first application.

“My advice to anyone applying for a scholarship is not to be put off if you’re unsuccessful first time.”

Program manager from the scholarships and prizes office, Tracy Hardy, said there was a range of undergraduate scholarships on offer, with some funded by the University and others paid for by external organisations.

"The closing date for applications for this semester is 17 March, so there’s still time to apply - all the details are online," she added.

http://www.canberra.edu.au/student-services/scholarships
The Land of Bad Fantasy - review

Jessica Rodgers takes a wild ride into the Land of Bad Fantasy and finds it to be an entertaining, if familiar, place to visit

28 February 2006: When I first saw this book, on an email invite to the launch, the creature on the cover reminded me of something from Maurice Sendak's classic children's fantasy Where the Wild Things Are and there are indeed wild things in this adventure.

The Land of Bad Fantasy by University of Canberra creative writing student 20-year-old Katie Taylor is a humorous journey through an intentionally stereotypical and clichéd fantasy land.

The hero, cheeky teen Ana Beachcombe, is conscious of adventures to be had in Syndup, the Land of Bad Fantasy and knows the rules of such lands and how to work them.

Joining Ana on her journey are a troll, a were-canary and a monster, all characters to be expected in a land of bad fantasy.

Along the way they meet more expected characters, heroes, wizards, dragon-riders, villagers, warlords and kings.

"It was like walking through a bus interchange only with fewer weirdos," Ana informs us.

The land of Syndup also fits the mould with the customary forests, castles, hills and villages.

While not being a religious fantasy reader I was still able to enjoy the stereotypes, stock-standard formula and of course the clichés, which according to Ms Taylor are 'like natural laws' in the Land of Bad Fantasy.

However not being a fantasy novel fan may also be a problem when making a recommendation on this book.

When I told my partner, a fanatic of the fantastic, that the book, in the words of Ms Taylor, "makes fun of everyone fantasy novel you've ever read" he didn't sound incredibly keen.

I do sincerely hope that avid and, of course, not-so-avid fantasy fans can enjoy this jovial take on the genre.

The Land of Bad Fantasy is delightful light read suitable for a range of ages and is a fantastic piece to launch Ms Taylor's career.
Wanted - vocalists to perform Les Miserables

Jacquelyn Curtis

28 February 2006: Nineteenth century France, the French Revolution and the unforgettable characters of Fantine, Cosette and Valjean will come to life at the University when the UC Music Society presents the music of Les Miserables.

Music from Victor Hugo's celebrated classic novel Les Miserables has been performed on stages all over the world, and on 25 March, will fill the halls of building five.

Freya Bailes, assistant director of the society, will lead participants through a 'scratch day' of rehearsals and auditions beginning at 10am and culminating in a concert for family and friends in the evening.

A number of solos are available for volunteers, including the roles of Fantine, Cosette, Valjean, Marius and many of the other Les Miserables characters.

Dr Bailes said the concert and scratch day had generated a 'reasonable response,' there was still room for more volunteers to take on solo and chorus roles.

Informal auditions for solos will be held during the week leading up to the concert, and interested parties should register with Dr Bailes.

"The bigger, the better," Dr Bailes said.

To lend your voice to the renowned tunes of 'On my own' or 'I dreamed a dream', and more of the musical's classic songs, register at the library foyer on 25 March.

Musical and theatre lovers can enjoy the concert and see the results of the Music Society's scratch day in 5B84 at 6pm.
Action man watches over stars and our city

Jessica Rodgers

21 February 2006: Ben Kropp, technical officer in the School of Resource Environmental and Heritage Sciences, likes to keep himself busy.

Mr Kropp is a qualified and licensed personal protection officer, is trained in two types of martial arts and is a volunteer in the ACT Rural Volunteer Fire Service.

He has previously worked at the University for six years and has been back on campus for a year, after returning from a stint as a personal protection officer in Queensland.

Mr Kropp decided to become involved in personal protection because he was "just looking for something different".

He knew people in the industry who assisted him in getting contracts once he was licensed.

Mr Kropp said about getting into the industry, "You have to have the right attitude."

"You can't just rock up and expect to get a job. You need to know someone who's known and attach yourself to them until you build your reputation."

Mr Kropp has worked with some well-known clients such as Prime Minister John Howard, Queensland Premier Peter Beattie and Australian music artists Jimmy Barnes, Tommy Emmanuel, Tim and Neil Finn and Shannon Noll.

He was once known as the 'McGuard', after being hired by McDonalds to protect a night manager who had being attacked a few times with the night takings.

Mr Kropp is a sensei in the Australian developed martial art of Go-Kan-Ryu and cross trains for tournaments in the Japanese Kyokushin. He's fought in martial arts competitions at state and national level.

Mr Kropp has been involved in volunteer fire fighting in the ACT since 2000 and in the 2003 Canberra fires was part of the team responsible for saving the sole remaining house in the Stromlo Forest Settlement.

They were also protecting the Western Creek Police Complex, while refilling their water supplies they encountered three people in bomb protection suits briefly before the indoor gun range and ammunition store exploded.

"Half the building exploded and there were shots going everywhere."

On the 2003 fires Mr Kropp said, "I'm glad I've been through it."

"I know what I'm capable of and I know what my team is capable of. I know there's trust and camaraderie."

Ben Kropp has been someone to watch over celebrities including Missy Higgins and John Howard
Photo: Kimberly Douglas

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au

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Bad Fantasy a good start as writer launches career

Jessica Rodgers

21 February 2006: Creative writing student Katie Taylor, launched her first novel ‘The Land of Bad Fantasy’ on 8 February at the University’s Co-Op Bookstore to a crowd of 50 people.

Ms Taylor, 20, who is in the second year of her degree, finished the book when she was 16 and had signed the contract for its publication when she was 18.

She said the book makes fun of every “fantasy novel you’ve every read”.

"It’s a formulaic plot where the kid goes into an alternate reality and comes back a better person - ‘better person’ in capital letters."

Ms Taylor said she is studying creative writing because she wants to write as a career and she believes in order to write about the world one needs to learn about the world.

She wrote the book “almost exclusively in class”, while her teachers thought she was taking notes on her laptop.

Ms Taylor, who said she’s never written a book without swords and magic, would take her laptop into class and her teachers would think that she was taking notes.

Ms Taylor was able to pinpoint the inspirational moment that led to her novel: she saw a red model of a unicorn and a wizard on a shelf in a Go-Lo store.

“I thought ‘I wonder what their names are and where they are going?’

“I thought ‘they must come from a fantasy land but not a very good fantasy land because they are very cheap.’"  

At the launch Ms Taylor signed copies of her novel, read an extract of her novel, thanked those who supported her and was taken aback by the number of people in attendance.

‘The Land of Bad Fantasy’ was launched by local award winning science fiction and fantasy writer Maxine Macarthur, who said Ms Taylor had a “really unique voice, an accomplished style”.  

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au
Wil Anderson review

Tiffany King saw Wil Anderson's 'work in progress' show and found it an amusing if no holds barred evening's entertainment

21 February 2006: In a small intimate setting within the courtyard studios of Canberra Theatre, Wil Anderson, host of the ABC show The Glass House, comic and ex-student of the University of Canberra, talked for more than 90 minute to more than 100 people of all ages and backgrounds.

Nothing was out of bounds or spared from Anderson's aim. "Satire at its best" he joked.

Commencing with a urinal, the jokes went from jewellery, immigration policy, schadenfreude, Shannon Noll, religion, PE teachers, racism, gay marriage, Sydney radio DJ's, Schappelle Corby, Michelle Leslie, to all that was un-Australian and back again.

Social justice, government on all sides, and their policies all copped a serve. The two fifteen year-old boys in the front row who were there without their parents earned some special attention from Anderson as he worked towards providing them with a 'special education'.

Anderson's sore back caused by incorrect tossing and turning whilst asleep led to him admitting some morphine experience, and finally a view that drugs aren't pushed, or that "drugs don't need ads, they sell themselves".

The night ended by Anderson offering his audience the chance to ask him questions. He was asked about his nail polish wearing habit. He admitted that he wore it to stop himself from biting his nails, but that he "got used to the taste of it".

Ironically the comic himself clearly dislikes being on the personal end of the stage, when he suggested that asking too many questions was "a hostage situation".

The audience after being led by Anderson for over 90 minutes non-stop was clearly worn out from laughing and somewhat dazed and happy at the end.

Anderson ended the night with a thank you and a reminder that it was all "a work in progress".
Indonesia's top immigration officials arrive for course

Edward O’Daly

21 February 2006: A group of 14 senior immigration officials from Indonesia was welcomed onto the campus yesterday to begin a tailor-made six-week English course.

The officials, who come from regional offices and the department’s Jakarta HQ, will study English, but also be given specialist skills in organising, promoting and running conferences.

Indonesia is to host two major English-language immigration conferences this year: bilateral discussions with Australia and a larger conference for the ASEAN region.

Ayi Nugraha, who is head immigration officer for Bengkulu province, said he hoped to improve his spoken English for meetings with international colleagues.

This is Mr Nugraha’s sixth visit to Canberra, which he described as “quite peaceful”, but he was nonetheless looking forward to yesterday afternoon’s tour of the city.

The course is sponsored by Australia’s Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, which approached the University of Canberra English Language Institute to develop the specialist course.
An optimistic O-week for disabilities office

Jacquelyn Curtis

21 February 2006. The launch of a new poster during O-week aims to create awareness of the needs of students with a disability and continues the inclusive approach taken by the Disabilities Office.

Dee Jackson, manager of the Disabilities Office, said the posters and four accompanying brochures had been ready for six months but the launch was held over until O-week because "the beginning of the academic year is a time of optimism."

The poster was designed by Pei-Cho Chao, a graphic design student from Singapore who has since graduated and is now undertaking her Master's degree in Melbourne.

Ms Chao conceived the theme of 'optimism' for the poster, which was an important "positive message, not a negative one," said Ms Jackson.

Ms Jackson hopes to see many of the posters around campus throughout the year.

"One thing with the launch is that we did not want a cupboard full of brochures," she said.

"We want to see them all over campus, we want them to be used."

"O-week can be in some ways be information overload so we are looking at doing another blitz in week two," she said.

Ms Jackson said the poster had been well received by students with disability.

"It has all been positive feedback," she said. "I think people see the promotion of the needs of people with a disability as a good thing."

Ms Jackson agreed the poster and brochures were part of a "new year and new beginning" for the Disabilities Office.
Welcome to Monitor Online - Orientation Week February 2006

For items published 2007 + please visit Monitor Online here

O-week special coverage
Throughout Orientation Week Monitor will bring you regular updates. Latest stories:

- Bedroom Philosopher shares wisdom at commencement
- Radio star graduate's talk highlight of ceremony
- OWLs a united front for O-week
- Orientation guides help nationalities mingle

O-week stories

- Students master public transport on tour of capital
- International students take see sights on bus trip
- First impressions
- We ask international students what they think of Canberra
- Industrial design project a step towards harmony
- Why people are making footprints in paint
- Students entranced by hypnotic entertainment
- Uninternational students
- Aussie culture explained to international students
- Why how are you dressed is an answer
- Uni electrician sparks gig for daughter
- Contractor's talented offspring wows lunchtime crowds
- First day takes account of smaller tasks
- Banking, security, computers explained
- International welcome
- Exec director's favorite task
- Afternoon tea for international students
- Aussie culture introduced to new residents

Orientation week homepage

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Galleries!
- Bus tour of Canberra
- Wednesday's Market Day
- Tuesday's Pasta night
- Tuesday on the Concourse
- International afternoon tea
- Monday

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Celebrating Excellence

- Winners announced
- Julie McCrossin praises staff
- Vice-Chancellor's column

Plus finalists and winners profiled below.

### Vice-Chancellor's Distinction Awards for Teaching and Learning
- Bachelor of International Studies team
- Julie Posetti
- Paul Magee
- Mary Walsh

### Vice-Chancellor’s Distinction Awards for Enhancing and Contributing to the University and Regional Community
- Judy Bell
- Margi Bohm
- Greg Boland
- Craig Bremner
- Equal Opportunity Committee
- Chris Gray
- Jann Lennard
- Master of Physiotherapy teaching team
- Paddy Onton
- Gerald Tarrant
- David Tattersall
- Technical Services Unit

### 25 Years of Service Awards
- Chris Chlap
- Liliana Espinoza
- Glen Fisher
- Ann Harvey
- Ken McQueen
- Richard Norris
- Ann Oner
- Graham Staniforth

For further information about Monitor Online, contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au

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Skier has designs on Olympic success

Edward O’Daly

7 February 2006: Graphic design student Esther Bottomley is preparing to compete at the Winter Olympics.

Ms Bottomley will take on the world’s best cross country skiers at the Turin games, which kick off with an Opening Ceremony on 10 February.

She spoke to the Monitor from Davos in Switzerland where she was involved in altitude training with other members of the Australian World Cup team, before heading to the Athletes’ Village in Italy this week.

“I’m getting really excited about the Olympics,” she said.

“I was really nervous for about two weeks leading up to my last selection race to try and qualify for the Games. I had to make a certain standard that I could have easily missed out on if I didn’t ski well, so the pressure was on.

“Now that I’ve made the team it’s all just a matter of skiing as fast as I can on the day, so I’m not nervous about it now and don’t think I will get that nervous for the race.

“I’m really looking forward to arriving in Turin, getting the Australian team uniform and then going to the opening ceremony.”

Ms Bottomley will hit the slopes to compete on 22 February and she said she’s pleased to have plenty of time to get to know the course.

She began skiing at the age of five when her family moved to Mt Beauty at the base of Falls Creek in Victoria and now has to juggle her studies with time spent training back home.

She trains for between 10 and 12 sessions a week, ranging from gym work, roller blading, jogging and swimming in the off season. Then in winter she continues these sessions in Canberra and depending on her time table travels to Falls Creek or Perisher to train and race on snow.

Her teachers have been helpful in adjusting her course load, helping her catch up and being available to chat, which has enabled her to compete while studying, she said. She is now considering completing her final year over two years to leave time to pursue her skiing.

“There is so much I love skiing,” she said.

“I get to travel every year overseas, I’ve met a heap of great people overseas and in Australia.

“Spring skiing in Australia is stunning, on sunny days with a frost over night the snow is fast and you can ski anywhere up at the high planes at Falls Creek.”
Staff to work up a sweat in day of 'sport'

Edward O'Daly

7 February 2006 If you can throw a water balloon or build a paper plane, the University's forthcoming staff 'sports' day has an event for you.

Scheduled to coincide with the more rigorous athleticism of the 2006 Commonwealth Games, Staffapolooza '06 promises to be a day where fun is more important than fitness.

"We're using the term 'sport' very lightly, you won't have to have massive athletic ability to take part," organiser and student systems support manager Amanda Cunningham told Monitor.

Originally the brainchild of the Social Club Committee of Student Administration, the event for teams of four to six people has been rolled out to the whole University.

"The reason we went outside student services is we felt there weren't enough opportunities for staff to get together."

Twelve areas of the University have already expressed an interest in participating and Ms Cunningham hopes there could be more than 80 staff members battling it out for the honour of being Staffapolooza 06 champion.

Activities at the event are likely to include Frisbee discuss, tunnel ball and a horse shoe toss, with competitors' brains being given a workout by logic and trivia puzzles. There will also be prizes for the best dressed team and food and drink after the event.

If you're interested in participating in Staffapolooza 06 email:

amanda.cunningham@canberra.edu.au

Teams and individuals are welcome.

If folding paper is your idea of exercise, you're probably fit enough for Staffapolooza

The name 'Staffapolooza' was dreamt up by Jeremy Hoare, client services officer in the Student Centre
Honour upgraded for retiring professor

Edward O’Daly

7 February 2006: In a momentous final week at the University, Associate Professor Linda Reaby crowned her career with a second Australia Day honour.

Having received the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 1996, Professor Reaby was 'upgraded' to become a Member in the General Division (AM) of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day honours list. Professor Reaby received this award for nursing education and her breast cancer activities.

A leading breast cancer researcher and advocate, Professor Reaby, who retired last Monday after 21 years at the University, said she was pleased the new award acknowledged her teaching in addition to her service to community health.

"It's a wonderful way to finish up my nursing career to be recognised by such a prestigious organisation for my work on nursing education," she said.

Professor Reaby joined the University in 1985 to assist in the transfer of nursing education from a hospital program to the University. In 1996 she became the University's first nursing academic to complete a PhD.

Professor Reaby said she would be leaving the University with a "heavy heart" but intended to continue with her educational, advocacy and research activities when she returns from an extended overseas trip.

"You haven't seen or heard the last of Linda Reaby," she said.
First sod turned for $10m health building

Edward O'Daly

7 February 2006: Work has begun on the University's multimillion dollar extension to its health buildings.

ACT Minister for Health Simon Corbell turned the first sod for the four storey annexe, which will join buildings 3 and 12, last Thursday.

The building will include a clinical centre that will treat actual patients, a state of the art nutrition and dietetics lab, areas for physiotherapy teaching and assessment, a pharmacy dispensing teaching space and staff offices. Work is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

The building has been made possible thanks to a $10 million grant from the ACT government - part of a strategy to increase the number of health professionals in the capital.

"We as a community have a much better chance of building a sustainable health system in the ACT if the people who work in the system are trained here and live here," Mr Corbell said.

Vice-Chancellor Roger Dean said the building demonstrated the close links between ACT Health and the University.

"This is the beginning of another stage in the development of the University's long standing commitment to allied health," Professor Dean said at the ceremony.

The improvements will not be limited to the new building, with existing areas likely to get a facelift as part of the project, which includes plans for a new nursing ward that will be available for use by physiotherapy students.
Dance leads Year of the Dog celebrations

Edward O'Daly

7 February 2006: The University celebrated the start of the Year of the Dog with food, dance, song and an impromptu language lesson last week.

Organised by the harmony committee, the Chinese New Year festivities were held in the refectory last Monday.

Dancers from Canberra's Jin Ju Lion Dance Team, gave an energetic performance as the pair of dancers beneath the lion leapt their way around the refectory and onto the gallery above.

The gathering was addressed by former Council member Sam Wong, Vice-Chancellor Roger Dean, who observed the Year of Dog comes as scientists successfully sequenced the dog genome, and executive director of development and international, Jandy Godfrey.

"One of the joys of being part of the University of Canberra community is the diversity of the community," Ms Godfrey said.

A Chinese musical interlude also came from a group of Beijing police officers - currently studying a special English course in preparation for the 2008 Olympics - who performed a mix of traditional and popular songs.

Chinese lecturer Felicia Zhang discussed the year of the dog, explaining those born in the year would have "keen sense of right and wrong", before teaching the audience to say "happy new year" in both Mandarin and Cantonese.

Happy New Year

Mandarin:
xin nian hao

Cantonese:
gong huey fa choi

Chinese lecturer Felicia Zhang discussed the year of the dog, explaining those born in the year would have "keen sense of right and wrong", before teaching the audience to say "happy new year" in both Mandarin and Cantonese.
Celts to travel under new leadership

Edward O'Daly

7 February 2006: Staff from CELTS will be out and about more than ever before under the direction of new head, Yoni Ryan.

Professor Ryan, who joined the University as director of the Centre for the Enhancement of Learning, Teaching and Scholarship (CELTS) at the beginning of the year, intends to take CELTS's expertise into areas across the campus.

"We will do a lot more focussed work in the schools on particular areas that are challenging for them. One school wants to work on assessment and we will tailor a program on that," Professor Ryan said.

"Another of the things I'm interested in doing is working more closely with the library: the learning environment in universities is affected by many people who are not 'teachers' - library staff in particular."

She's also keen to see more staff taking up CELTS' Graduate Certificate in Higher Education and intends to be closely involved in the Centre's teaching and research.

"Without doing the 'hands on' teaching myself, and the research, I'm not going to be as valuable in passing on staff concerns to the people making policy decisions."

Professor Ryan was formerly the deputy director of Monash University's version of CELTS and is enjoying the convenience of the University of Canberra's single campus.

Her research interests include the impact of the internet on education and the way academic roles have changed in response to more regulation in universities.

She said she had "resisted" coming to Canberra for some years, but the capital had won her over during a planning week last year.

"I fell in love with the city," she said.

"I haven't been able to wipe the smile off my face since I started."
New councillor hopes to help UC steer safe course

Edward O’Daly

7 February 2006: Having invested 17 years as a staff member at the University of Canberra, new face on Council Stacey Durrell is relishing the chance to influence the direction of the University.

Elected last year as Council’s general staff member, Ms Durrell already has two meetings under her belt.

"I have been a staff member for a long time and this is an opportunity to contribute something to the University," she said.

"I do feel quite passionately about the place. I wanted to be part of keeping it a good place to work."

"There are interesting times ahead working within a framework that is driven by the Government’s ideology - I hope we’ll be able to steer the University in a positive direction."

Ms Durrell said it was “flattering for the ego” to be elected to the Council. She put her success down to having worked in so many areas of the University among them the Division of Health, Design and Science, the Secretariat and Student Services, where she is currently employed as manager of student progress and support.

Ms Durrell was keen to dispel the misconception that her role was simply to represent ‘general staff. In fact she is expected to work in the best of interest of the University while bringing a general staff perspective to discussions.

She said she expects her two year term will be a learning experience and was pleased her first meeting had not been as daunting as she’d expected - and now she knows the ropes she intends to be an active participant in meetings.

"I’m not a shy little flower so I imagine I will speak up," she said.
Got a question? AskUC

Edward O’Daly

7 February 2006: There is a new oracle on campus with the launch of AskUC, a website devoted to helping students find important information.

Everything from using the library to enrolling in courses is covered by the site which is accessed from the University homepage and went live yesterday.

AskUC is crammed with the answers to frequently asked questions supplied by four areas: ICT Services, the Library, Student Administration and TEDS (Technology and Educational Design Services), and other areas will be invited to add their own FAQs to the system later in the year.

“We want to put up as much useful, relevant information as possible,” project manager, Jo-anne Wills, said.

“This system will free up staff to use their skills and expertise to deal with more complex queries, while giving students the opportunity to find the information they need, quickly and easily, 24 hours a day, without even having to come on campus.”

The site can easily be updated by individual areas as new questions become apparent and if users cannot find the information they require, they can submit their query through AskUC and it will be directed to a staff member who can.

Users can search for answers to their questions or simply browse a list, with the most popular questions moving to the top - however first place will always be reserved for the most important question of all: “how do I use AskUC?”.

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au

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Jessica Rodgers
24 January 2006

University of Canberra professional writing graduate Belinda Barancewicz will see her work on screen thanks to a scriptwriting prize and a surprise windfall from local gambling giant ACTTAB.

Her script, ‘Breeding Souls’, was picked from nine entrants and won $500, plus in-kind support from short::seasons and EoR Media. Her appearance on Canberra’s WIN television news following the prize prompted ACTTAB, where she had worked as a night manager during her studies, to chip in with a further $4,000 in sponsorship.

Ms Barancewicz said the ACTTAB funding would cover all her post-production costs.

The in-kind support includes use of short::seasons’ professional editing suite and assistance with hiring equipment, to help produce the comedy about a young woman torn between science and psychics when looking for love.

This is the first script that Ms Barancewicz, who has produced six short films and worked on television in the UK before beginning her studies, has written that will be made into a film.

Ms Barancewicz, who graduated in 2004, began the writing degree to work on poetry but her interest in scriptwriting was reawakened.

“It was like I found my niche again. I loved it,” Ms Barancewicz said.

She first had the idea for ‘Breeding Souls’ about two years ago but had never written the script.

“The day before the deadline at about 8pm, I thought, I’m going to write it down. I pulled an all nighter, drank lots of coffee and worked on it for 11 hours.”

Ms Barancewicz hopes that the film will be screened at the Cannes and Sundance film festivals.

“For me, I hope the film exposes me not only as a producer but as a writer too.”

Ms Barancewicz said without the University she wouldn’t be where she was today and her former teachers continue to be supportive.

“I feel like I’ve never really left the community. I’ve built important friendships that have been of benefit to me in the industry.”

Festival co-director Matthew Fallon said the scripts were judged on produce-ability, based on the budget and time available, originality, being an interesting script and being playable to a Canberra audience.

Mr Fallon said Ms Barancewicz’s script won because it “had a great sense of fun”.

“I expect it will be quite a laugh for audiences who see it. It was well written.

“My hat goes off to ACTTAB for recognising Belinda’s talent and for wanting to support her,” he added.

ACTTAB chief executive Tony Curtis said: “ACTTAB is pleased to be able to assist Belinda towards one day achieving her aspirations of becoming a leading Australian and world film maker. She is a very talented young Canberran of whom we are all very proud.”
Wil Anderson to test drive new show in Canberra

Star of TV and radio and University of Canberra journalism graduate, Wil Anderson, will be back in town to try out his new show next month. He tells Edward O’Daly about the process of finetuning a comedy routine and the decision to turn his back on journalism.

24 January 2006: Wil Anderson’s University of Canberra classmates are among Australia’s most successful journalists.

They’re reporting for major newspapers and, he says, at least one has a prestigious Walkley gracing his mantelpiece, but, despite turning his back on a promising career in the Press Gallery soon after graduation, Anderson is pleased to have beaten his highflying peers to one benchmark of journalistic success.

“I was the first one that got a column. I still don’t think they think that’s particularly fair,” he says.

Before the lure of stand-up became irresistible, Anderson’s career had seemed to be mapped out: he’d done well at university, working the press gallery while he studied, and he was good at his job.

“I was quite convinced that journalism was what I was going to do. I was quite good at it, but I didn’t love it. Should you be happy just to be good at something?”

“I always loved to make people laugh. If you find something you love to do and you love it enough, you will find a way to make money doing it.”

Which is what he did. He admits there wasn’t much money for the first couple of years, but things are clearly going pretty well now for the former Triple J breakfast co-host, star of ABC’s The Glasshouse and columnist with The Sunday Magazine.

While he says a degree certainly isn’t a prerequisite for a career in stand-up, Anderson’s journalism skills come in handy when producing his energetic brand of biting satire.

“I always loved to make people laugh. If you find something you love to do and you love it enough, you will find a way to make money doing it.”

“Most of the skills you learn as a journalist are useful as a comedian, but I’ve never been heckled with ‘Are you qualified?’” he says.

“You get an insight - and just the discipline of having it expected that you would have read three or four newspapers before you get to work is useful when you’re reading papers and pulling out ideas.”

Anderson is currently hard at work pulling the finishing touches to material for his 2006 tour, but before unleashing it to the wider Australian audience he’s heading back to Canberra for five nights in February to give it a test drive.

While he is confident there are “plenty of laughs” in the show, he says it’s vital to try everything out on an audience and an opportunity for the public to see material that might never be recreated, with a level of intimacy and audience involvement that won’t be part of the tour - the stand-up equivalent of an unplugged performance.

“When you're coming up with a new show, until you do it in front of an audience, you don't know what a joke is. It's the only job where an expert knows less than an amateur.”

“I find this a really painful experience. It's like I'm saying 'look at my baby' and people say, 'your baby is ugly'.

I don't think you should give up on jokes straight away. Sometimes it's just about structure and it will fit better at a different part of the show.

“Are others that are like the scene in a horror movie where you're running away and the friend falls down - you don't go back for them.”

The week in Canberra will be a week of work Anderson says, and there is likely to be quite a difference between his first and fifth nights as he finetunes the jokes, but he says he hopes to relive some of his uni days.

“I'll be spending time at Belconnen mall, going to the Labor Club and playing on the big pool tables, but I wasn't that good at it.”

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“I'll be spending time at Belconnen mall, going to the Labor Club and playing on the big pool tables, pronouncing Manuka correctly...”

Win tickets to see Wil live?

Monitor has a pair of tickets to his show on Thursday 9 February to give the person who can answer this simple question:

Who was Wil Anderson’s co-host on the Triple J breakfast show?

email your answers to the Monitor by 4pm on Monday 6 February to be in with a chance.

Wil Anderson will be performing at the Canberra Theatre Centre, Courtyard Studio, London Circuit from 7 to 11 February. Shows begin at 7.30pm.

Tickets (priced at $25) are available from Canberra Ticketing.
Student to put on show with musical jacket

Jessica Rodgers

24 January 2006: University of Canberra creative communication honours student Somaya Langley has won a $6677 'Sounding-out' grant from the Australia Council for the Arts to develop a wearable performance jacket designed to create an engaging audiovisual performance.

This was the third and final round of the ‘Sounding-out’ initiative which aims to support and raise awareness of Australian made music instruments and ‘sound-interface practices’.

Ms Langley’s project was inspired by the way perceptions of people in backpacks have changed since July’s bombings on the London Underground.

"I wear a backpack everywhere and now all of a sudden I’m one of the ‘potentially dangerous’,” she said.

The wearable performance jacket began as a project involving Ms Langley and her colleagues in the group ‘HyperSense Complex’, Dr Alistair Riddell and Simon Burton. The trio developed an interface using flex sensors to control the elements of sound.

Ms Langley, who begins her honours next month, is now in the process of incorporating accelerometers, devices which measure acceleration into the jacket to create more possibilities for sound control.

“Right now I have things gaffer taped together. I’ll be able to create something more robust that I can tour with.

“I’ll also be able to pay other experts who assist me practically, and with ideas.”

One of the people who will be assisting Ms Langley is Melissa Penrose, a University of Canberra industrial design honours graduate.

Ms Langley hopes to take her projects overseas and has been interested in music since she was a child.

“I really like the emotive qualities of sound. I like trying to control this potentially untameable ephemeral thing.”

Program officer at the Australia Council for the Arts, Karen Barker, said this round of the initiative had been highly competitive, with "a strong number of applications with a diverse range of project innovations".

“The assessment panel was pleased to support Somaya Langley’s proposal. The project was interesting and innovative and we wish her well in fulfilling her project.”

Vice-Chancellor Roger Dean said, “I’m particularly pleased that the creative efforts of UC students and staff are being acknowledged and supported.”
Parliamentary Library in graduate’s safe hands

Jessica Rodgers

24 January 2006: Former University of Canberra student Roxanne Missingham has been appointed Parliamentary Librarian.

Ms Missingham applied for the position because she had worked in the Parliamentary Library before and it was “an exciting place to work”.

Ms Missingham has a diploma and a master’s degree from the University of Canberra

“It makes a real difference to not only the Members and Senators but to Australian politics,” she said.

She started work in the role, which includes responsibility for the smooth running of the Library, a key source of information for MPs and Senators, before Christmas.

Ms Missingham completed a Diploma in Librarianship at the University’s predecessor, the Canberra College of Advanced Education, in 1976 and returned in the 1990s to study for a Master of Public Administration degree, graduating in 1998.

Ms Missingham spoke fondly of the newly-founded CCAE campus in the 1970s.

“It was a lovely campus, very friendly,” she said.

“There was a real sense of community about it. There were expert lecturers. I remember sitting in one lecture watching a kangaroo lope across the campus.”

Ms Missingham found the course fascinating.

“There was a wide range of lecturers and topics, a tremendous cohort of people,” she said.

“Lecturers came from all areas, public, private and defence. The different perspectives through which topics were examined really made the theory come to life.”

Ms Missingham said the area of librarianship she enjoys the most is the retrieval of relevant information using technology.

Before taking up her current role Ms Missingham worked as assistant director-general (resource sharing division) at the National Library of Australia.

She’s also held senior librarian appointments in a number of government departments and had more than 70 book chapters, conference papers and articles published.

Ms Missingham said that her time at the University and the CCAE contributed to her success in the area due to the wide variety of people she dealt with.

“The lecturers were involved in the industry and they gave you knowledge and way of communicating in the world that was broader that librarianship and public policy.

“I think the UC really does give graduates a sense of community involvement.”

Senate President Senator Paul Calvert, who announced the Ms Missingham’s appointment in conjunction with the Speaker of the House, David Hawker, said he was delighted someone of “such high calibre” had taken the role.
Grant to teach computers to speak with an Aussie accent

Jessica Rodgers

24 January 2006. University of Canberra PhD student David Worrall has won a grant of almost $9,000 to develop an Australian dialect voice synthesiser, ADVOIS.

The $8,977 was awarded in the third and final round of the Australia Council for the Arts' 'Sounding-out' initiative, which aims to support and raise awareness of Australian made music instruments and 'sound-interface practices'.

Mr Worrall's project will give voice synthesisers a familiar sound.

ADVOIS allows speech to be synthesised with an Australian sound.

Mr Worrall came up with the idea after being "unsatisfied" with the range of voice synthesisers available.

"There's lots of voice synthesisers on the market but none of them have an Australian accent," Mr Worrall said.

“They all have American accents or some obscure accent like Afrikaans. They are not from our culture. We need one that's more resonant with our culture.”

Voice synthesisers are used for reading texts, such as to people who are blind or for automatic telephone answering services.

Vice-Chancellor Roger Dean said: "I'm proud that the recipient of this grant is a participant in the Sonic Communications Research Group which I founded."

Professor Dean added he was pleased the creative efforts of the University's students and staff were being acknowledged.
Guardians of our heritage trained in unique course

Edward O'Daly

24 January 2006: Those charged with protecting our heritage were given specialist training at the University of Canberra last week.

The group of 27 professionals with an interest the field, which requires skills in areas as diverse as architecture, history and science, began the week-long Summer School in Cultural Heritage Management with visits to London Bridge Homestead and Lanyon, followed by later field trips to see heritage management in action in Goulburn and at Old Parliament House.

The course covered the rules, philosophy, best practice and tricks of the trade behind heritage management.

"Heritage places tell us who we are and where we have come from," the course's coordinator, Adjunct Associate Professor David Young said.

"A heritage site doesn't have to be a grand building. It could be a general store in a country town with no architectural significance, but the stories and memories attached to it make it special."

"The students on this course are in different ways responsible for safeguarding these priceless places. Without professionals with the specialist skills we provide on this course valuable parts of our heritage could be lost by oversight."

On Friday, participants were introduced to Australia's natural cultural heritage by the Mount Annan Botanic Garden's indigenous education officer Fran Bodkin and Gavin Andrews from the NSW Department of Natural Resources. Their afternoon session covered the outdoor "chemist's shop" and "supermarket" our environment offers - including painkilling sap, insulin from bugs and tea from pine needles.

Professor Young explained heritage management was a relatively new and evolving discipline and the University's course was the fastest way for those new to the field to get up to speed.

Participants on the course came from across Australia, as well as South Africa and New Zealand, and work in local, state and federal government, architecture and full time heritage roles.

Stewart Mitchell head of buildings and services at the Australian War Memorial said he chose the summer school after doing previous heritage courses with Professor Young and said heritage was the most exciting part of his job.

Sue Mavor, heritage coordinator with Bay of Plenty Regional Council, said it was worth making the journey across the Tasman as the course was better than anything available in New Zealand.

"It's been full-on, but amazing," she added.
Statistician gives research a solid foundation

Jessica Rodgers

24 January 2006: University of Canberra's statistical consultant David Pederson is a bit of a hidden treasure.

His job is to assist research students, from honours upwards, and staff in all disciplines in their research if their projects involve the use of statistics.

Dr Pederson finds statistics 'exciting, satisfying, logical and useful'

Photo: Kimberly Douglas

Dr Pederson has been the University's statistical consultant for about three years and has been giving casual lectures and tutorials in statistics since retiring from full-time teaching in 1996.

He can assist students and staff with the design of their surveys and with analysis of their results.

Dr Pederson developed an interest in statistics in the 1950s when studying genetics at university.

"This was in the early days of the study of genetics, the structure of DNA had just been discovered," he said.

"Genetics involves statistics and from genetics I moved to the area of biology which also involves statistics."

The nature of statistics has changed since Dr Pederson began as a statistics lecturer at the University's predecessor the Canberra College of Advanced Education in 1976, when there was only one computer on campus.

"People now have the ability to do their own quite complicated analysis quite easily.

"Anyone can have quite powerful statistics software on their computer."

Projects Dr Pederson has been recently involved with include a survey of participants in SCUBA diving from a tourism perspective, an investigation into the use of hair colour in forensic science, an experiment on the length of incubation of eggs in a freshwater turtle and a study of post traumatic stress disorder in veterans of the Vietnam War.

For assistance with your research, Dr Pederson can be emailed to request an appointment or to assist with short questions on statistical.consultant@canberra.edu.au

Some statistics on Dr Pederson's work:

In 2004, 41 people used the service. In 2005, 45 people used the service. In those two years,

- 15% of activity involved staff or students from the Division of Business, Law and Information Sciences
- 42% of activity involved staff or students from the Division of Communication and Education
- 43% of activity involved staff or students from the Division of Health, Design and Science
US internship a Capitol opportunity for journalist

Jessica Rodgers

10 January 2006. Journalism student Douglas Ferguson is bound for Washington as the winner of a two-month political communication internship in the US. During the internship - part of the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme - Mr Ferguson will work in the US Congress in the press office of Senator Debbie Stabenow of Michigan.

Mr Ferguson was "absolutely overjoyed" to win the internship. Photo: Kimberly Douglas

Mr Ferguson, who currently works in the press gallery at Parliament House, hopes to get from his internship an insight into "the up-close process of communication with the electorate."

"I want to see what choices politicians and their staff make regarding policy, policy management, the image they portray and the spin they use to promote themselves to the press."

More than 60 students from around Australia applied for an internship, and 12 were selected, based on a series of essays about the roles of individual members of Congress and what purpose an internship with them would serve. Mr Ferguson was informed of his success at the beginning of spring 2005.

Mr Ferguson has worked in television news production for 25 years. He has travelled with every Prime Minister since Bob Hawke to the US and has been inside the White House with every President since Ronald Reagan.

Previous University of Canberra winners of the Uni-Capitol Internship are Heather Rietdyk and Luke Toy.

"The feedback from them has been encouraging and positive," Mr Ferguson said.

"Both have emphasised to me that by working and observing closely, the internships gave them greater understandings and competencies for future employers. They also told me what bars to drink at."

Mr Ferguson said he was "absolutely overjoyed" to be selected and thanked his wife, children and lecturer Trish Payne, who first told him about the internship, for their support.

Dr Payne said she had "no doubt" Mr Ferguson would be a great asset to his congressional office in Washington.

Director, founder and judge of the Uni-Capitol Internship Eric Federing said the internship is offered to help Americans and Australians know each other better.

Mr Federing, who was a senior advisor for 12 years in Congress, explained why Mr Ferguson was chosen for the internship:

"Douglas made the best case for a match with Senator Stabenow.

"His strengths were outstanding in political communications.

"Arguably the important element here was matching people to people. The mentor in the Senator's office is her deputy communications director, Nanette Wilkin.

"If I were Nanette, heading into the senator's re-election year, I would want to welcome someone like Doug who can obviously lend a hand while he's learning."

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au

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UC graduate and independent filmmaker Daryl Dellora has developed a reputation for his unique documentary style, which merges traditional documentaries and drama to retell familiar stories. He discussed his career so far with Jessica Rodgers.

10 January 2006: Daryl Dellora has investigated some controversial issues in a career as a filmmaker that has covered more than 20 years. From the sacking of the Whitlam Government to relations between the police and Indigenous Australians, he has cast his unique eye over some familiar Australian historical and political issues. "I approach them from a slightly different angle," he said.

Mr Dellora's films look at well-known stories with fresh eyes
Photo: Film Art Doco

"While the media covers things in immediate terms, I approach them from a more historical context. I form my films in a way that raises questions about the truth and the way the truth is depicted."

He has developed a unique documentary style that works between traditional documentary forms and narrative dramatic styles.

"Emotional response"
Mr Dellora said, "They raise questions about how documentaries are made. They prompt an emotional response from the audience."

Mr Dellora graduated with a Graduate Diploma in Media Studies from the University of Canberra’s predecessor the Canberra College of Advanced Education (CCAE) in 1982. He founded his independent film production company, Film Art Doco, in 1987. Film Art Doco specialises in Australian documentary films for television.

His first film, 'Seven Years Later', was devised using combination of documentary reflections on the sacking of the Whitlam Government and representation of daytime TV soap opera. Other topics he has approached include the issue of police and Indigenous Australian relations in Victoria covered in 'Koories and Cops' and the allegations against late High Court Judge Lionel Murphy explored in 'Mr Neal is Entitled to be an Agitator'.

Last year he completed 'The Life, Times and Travels of the Extraordinary Vice-Admiral William Bligh', an innovative, web-based 'interactive graphic novel' for the ABC. Funding
Mr Dellora said documentaries rarely make a profit and, with challenging content, funding can be difficult to obtain.

Film Art Doco’s films are funded by a range of different sources including private investment. Public funding comes from organisations including the ABC, the Australian Film Finance Corporation, the Australian Film Commission, Film Victoria and the New South Wales Film & Television Office.

Mr Dellora said, "There’s a sector in the Australian Government dedicated to assisting documentary films. These films have no direct commercial angle but the Government support is needed for this cultural centre to continue."

The company is currently in post-production on a feature film starring Ben Mendelsohn and Victoria Hill called ‘Hunt Angels’ to be released in 2006.

About his time in Canberra Mr Dellora said, "The CCAE (now the University of Canberra) was highly important in my development as a film maker. The work I did there was very important in establishing my career. Without that period I would have never been able to set up my own company and become an independent film maker."

For further information about Monitor Online contact the editor: monitor@canberra.edu.au

A crime in search of a body: the disappearance of Marilyn Wallman

Communications manager Gaye Morrison gives a personal reflection on a recent seminar covering an event that changed her life.

10 January 2006: Sometimes it is possible to isolate a single day when everything changes. For me, growing up in the 1970s in Mackay in Queensland, it was the day teenager of Marilyn Wallman vanished.

The case began in 1972 when 14-year-old Marilyn Wallman disappeared when riding her bike down a country lane just outside of Mackay on her way to school. Her two brothers, straggling along the lane just minutes after her, found her bike lying on the ground, the front wheel still spinning.

Marilyn was never found and there were no further clues to her disappearance despite extensive searches of the area which began almost immediately after she vanished.

This case was the subject of a recent Communication PG Seminar, delivered by Belinda Morrissey. Dr Morrissey beautifully wove into her paper the facts of the case, together with exploration of the "vanished" and the role of the body in a crime narrative.

The paper also explained how the media and the police, through stories which often included rumour and conjecture attempted to suture the traumatic rent in communal consciousness that this particular "vanishing" or "disappearance" delivered to the community of Mackay.

As a child growing up in Mackay after Marilyn Wallman disappeared, my freedom disappeared, too.

It was apparent to most parents that whoever abducted Marilyn Wallman was still out there in the community and could easily strike again. As Dr Morrissey discovered when visiting Mackay and interviewing residents, this fear of the stranger has continued through to the next generation.

The tragedy that was the disappearance of Marilyn Wallman was not known to most of the audience at the seminar. Although the story was picked up in some major newspapers in Australia at the time of the disappearance it was not burned into the national consciousness.

The Marilyn Wallman case is interesting and complex. Dr Morrissey's challenging paper is a reminder that too often it is a murder with a discovered body and the narrative attached which is of much more interest to the public and the media.

Her exploration of the vanished starkly positions the suffering of those, both family members and the surrounding community, who have no body to grieve over and no possibility of resolution.
Students research Chinese tourism

Gabby McMillan

10 January 2006. China’s booming travel market and growing relationship with Australia has sparked the interest of several University of Canberra students.

Tourism student Ruth Weichard and Sustainable Tourism CRC scholarship holder Mike Kong have been researching China and tourism for around 18 months, although their focuses are significantly different.

Ruth Weichard has interviewed senior diplomats and politicians as part of her research in the relationship between Australia and China.

Ms Weichard’s work centres on the two countries’ relationship and the changes in policy of the Australia-China Approved Destination Status (ADS) agreement.

Australia obtained ADS status, which allows Chinese people to travel to Australia as tourists not just for business or to visit family, in 1999.

Ms Weichard has conducted several in-depth interviews with politicians, bureaucrats and ambassadors to explore recent changes in Australia-China ADS policy in Australia.

She said she is interested in researching why the ADS policy extended its access to people from all provinces of China.

"ADS has been great for tourism in China and Australia so it’s interesting to learn why it happened when it did," she said.

While Mr Kong is interested in the relationship between Australia and China, he is focused on consumerism.

He has researched Chinese visitors’ expectations before they travel to Australia and after they leave.

Mr Kong said his results will show tourism operators what they can do to increase Chinese satisfaction in Australia.

He has already completed two conference papers on the topic.

Mr Kong hopes to interview Chinese tourists at the international airport before they return home but is waiting for permission.

Otherwise he intends to survey tourists in popular destinations including the Australian War Memorial and Sydney’s Chinatown.

Mr Kong presented a paper at the International Conference on Destination Branding and Marketing for Regional Tourism Development in China in December 2005.

Mr Kong and Ms Weichard both presented papers at the Fourth Asia Pacific Forum for Graduate Student Research in Tourism in Honolulu, Hawaii in August 2005.
Practice makes perfect for top young lawyer

University of Canberra graduate Peter Woulfe is an award-winning young lawyer with a passion for his profession, writes Gabby McMillan.

10 January 2006: When Peter Woulfe, who graduated from the University in 2000, was named the Law Council of Australia’s Young Lawyer of the Year at a presentation in Brisbane last November, it was the culmination of several years as one of the most active young members of Australia’s legal profession.

Mr Woulfe's extensive experience and involvement in the local community contributed to his success; he had been actively involved with the Young Lawyer’s Committee (YLC), is a member of both the Australian National University Legal Workshop Advisory Board and the ACT Law Society's Legal Education Committee.

He is currently working as a litigation solicitor with Dibbs Abbott Stillman in Canberra.

Mr Woulfe described the award as a "great accolade", adding he felt "shocked but satisfied to win".

His passion for law extends to his passion for helping young lawyers make a smooth transition as they move from university to practicing law.

In his former role with the YLC, Mr Woulfe assisted in setting up a range of seminars to assist with this transition.

Mr Woulfe said this is important because there are various challenges which face young lawyers; some challenges specific to practicing in the various courts and tribunals in the Australian Capital Territory.

"There are very long hours, which, depending on workload can vary from anywhere between 8am to 8pm, or perhaps beyond," he said.

"There are also tight time frames and deadlines."

"While there are challenges, you have to weigh them up against the positive things including the fact that you're providing and important community service and representing the people in your city."

Mr Woulfe said he really enjoys practicing law because there are "various interesting issues and, on the whole, a good support network of more experienced practitioners".

He said he is very happy working with Dibbs Abbott Stillman because he gets the "best of both worlds": working as a solicitor and undertaking court and tribunal appearances.
Defence parades opportunities on careers front

Emma Pegrum

10 January 2006: When BLIS international student administrator, Melinda Leahy, discovered that permanent residency rather than Australian citizenship was recognised by the Australian Defence Force (ADF) as one of the criteria for applying to join the services, she and Heather Jack from the University’s Career Service co-ordinated an information session on ADF careers for international and domestic undergraduate and graduate students.

Nearly 60 students attended the information session on 15 December. Presented by recruiters from the Defence Force Recruiting Centre in Canberra, the session provided an overview of the selection process for entering the armed services at officer level and answered the most commonly asked questions related to undergraduate and graduate entry.

While there are many avenues of entry into the ADF, undergraduates or graduates usually enter at officer level, and as such are selected for their potential as leaders. The current availability of positions in areas such as nursing, pharmacy and accounting made the presentation particularly interesting to students with degrees in these disciplines.

International students were told they could make enquiries about careers within the ADF prior to attaining residency.

Petty Officer David Best dispelled some myths about joining the ADF. “Students and graduates who join the ADF will not be locked in for life,” he said. “Around four to six years is about average, but this really depends on the job you’re employed to do and the amount of training the Defence Force will need to invest in you.”

The recruiting team said interest from students was higher than expected and 17 people had added their names to a list to receive more information.

If a career in the Australian Defence Force interests you, you can find out more by visiting www.defencejobs.gov.au, or contacting the University’s careers team on 6201 5221.
University of Canberra Vice-Chancellor Professor Roger Dean admitted he struggled with statistics in his academic career. M. Margetts, Reader, Public Health Nutrition, Institute of Human Nutrition, University of Southampton, said.

International accreditation an Australian First for Nursing Research Centre

A group of 15 delegates visited UC on 11 May to discuss teaching and research programs with the Wests Lions grand final win earlier this year.

The seaside and rural hosts of Bega Rotary club won the hearts of twelve University of Canberra Student's Association staff members were thrilled by the attendance of around 200 students and staff Colourful collection when 22 refurbished computers are shipped to the Solomon Islands.

Fijiindian Fragments

Prize at the ACT Health Promotion Awards 2005 held on Friday 6 May at the National Education Council.

Stepping stones to reconciliation

The film 'Rabbit Proof Fence' was shown at a free screening on Monday 23 May, as part of UC's 2005 Day of Healing (Sorry Day).

UC Welcomes New Marketing Director

Vice-Chancellor's passion for music formally recognised

UC Health Sciences to benefit from 'The Canberra Plan'

Our very own "Dish"

With the appointment of a Project Manager for UC's new systems to measure and improve the quality of every aspect of the University's offshore programs.

As part of an occasional series on the hobbies of the University's staff, the Monitor investigates the world of the archaeologist.

Fellowship beats loneliness for writer

Mimics trick recognition software

Curtain up on short film extravaganza

Insomnia research shows we all need an early night

Role of young ambassadors celebrated

Gongs for alumni at ACT's short film Oscars

Short nights something to lose sleep over

Above par performance brings trophy to concourse

Meet UC graduatee, former public servant and fantasy author, Garth Nix

Life of myth and mystery for cult author

Project examines division of labour in PNG highlands

Canberra wants your party ideas

Unity not ballot box for student elections

Postcode lottery under the microscope at NATSEM

ARC grant to analyse sources of courtroom prejudice

Show goes on despite storms

National award for creative writing WebCT

High-ranking Chinese MBA 'in good company'

Chancellor prepares for 88th and final graduation
Forensic research on the hunt for rogue labs

Pay-offs from turning raw chemicals into sellable drugs could be 15 times their cost, so people go to amazing lengths to protect their labs, according to Dr Dennis Pianca.

Reality TV clients for graphic design class

Students from the fourth year Graphic Design consultancy class are producing the logo and web home page for the intruders of the evicted restaurant for the Reality TV Show, My Restaurant Rules.
University of Canberra Union said the contract would not be renewed.

Overseas students go to the beach, some for the first time around the world. After spending a week at the hobby. So what do these people have in common? 

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Overseas students go to the beach, some for the first time around the world. After spending a week at the hobby. So what do these people have in common? 

inside stories of intimate relationships wanted

Five University of Canberra design students will work with design world stars, such as confronting New

Director of University of Canberra's National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM),

Water management is high on the agenda for the University of Canberra and the Cooperative Research

Chaplaincy co-ordinator Leonie-Ruth Acland cannot remember a time when she could not play the violin.

No strings attached for Leonie-Ruth Acland

Employee wins award for UCU services

UC students keeps Soccer on level playing field

scavenger hunt for filmmakers again this year.

Hong Kong honours its bright lights too

Hayley's still our Idol at UC

but for some UC residential students the opportunity to share more than just their fabric softener with

Hussain Faiz, a University of Canberra PhD student in Higher Education and his wife Maha, were in

ravaged town called Hambantota in Sri Lanka.

Canadian students Barbra Bailey and Ginelle Gomes were attracted to studying in Australia for three

and financial problems.

15 to discuss the growing importance of ICT technology and university students with physical, mental

The "Building An Inclusive Community" program for all staff was launched on February 10 in Building 5.

Day from their operations centre in the UC Innovation building.

EMA at forefront of Operation Tsunami Assist

The UC refectory was awash with red when staff and students celebrated the Chinese New Year of the

Orientation Week officially started with a free pancake breakfast held on the concourse for University of

O-week: ready, set, go eat

While the National Multicultural Festival remains in full swing in Garema Place, the University of

average afternoon at the University of Canberra.

The UCU Big Lunch on the UC Concourse today exceeded expectations, with participants joining long

Oval in Narrabundah.

Cricket: Hitting it for six at Boomanulla

other night he was one of the stars at the UC Comedy night.

Comedic trio brings a bundle of laughs to UC

Holy smoke, here comes the Donormobile

Those 'shrieks' were later revealed to be a UC student version of The Beatles' "Twist and Shout", being

The incoherent shrieks could be heard from 100 paces - it was the unmistakable sound of karaoke.

thing of the past and the constant free food has disappeared. Around 10,000 University of Canberra

thing of the past and the constant free food has disappeared. 

Orientation Week is over. The punch parties have finished, sleeping in until the afternoon has become a

Children's author Jill Morris will be the University of Canberra's May Gibbs Fellow between March 7 and

planned to avoid disruption.

Langley.

outside the UCIC building is UC's latest art acquisition, a sculpture by renowned glass artist Warren

7.30pm at the

Twenty-four women from all areas of the University of Canberra attended the introductory residential

preparing and seasoning their performances for opening night on April 1 at the Staff Club approaches.

Cast members of The Players Company production of Chekhov's Funniest will spend the next week

The two faces of Jennifer Newman

There was a sign of the front door of the Students Association yesterday morning to say the centre

Looking for Alibrandi, Playing Beatie

The two faces of Jennifer Newman

said: Under VSU, this service would not exist.

There was a sign of the front door of the Students Association yesterday morning to say the centre

Bow, Master of the Grove, So Much to Tell You

and looking for Alibrandi, Playing Beatie

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About
News and feature stories 2004

DECEMBER 2004

Medical science student wins our top award
A student, described by her lecturers, as without a doubt the most academically gifted student they had seen in 30 years of teaching has been honoured with the University of Canberra’s most prestigious award, the Herbert Burton Medal.

NOVEMBER 2004

Come Movember
About 30 guys from University of Canberra let their moustaches grow long in November. But it wasn’t to raise hell, it was to raise money for a good cause.

UC Tourism Management graduate gets feet wet
One of the new faces of the Canberra convention industry, Cathryn Hendrickson, leads a double life that begins most days when her alarm clock goes off at 3.50am.

Amy attracts tourism award
A bit more than two years ago, “Amy” Xu Xiaodong spent her working days fixing electronics on passenger aeroplanes in Shenyang in north-east China.

UC clothes designer finds way to beat jobless queues
Finding decent work as a migrant can be almost impossible, so University of Canberra student Sifundo Kahonde avoided job knock-backs and started his own business, Rebecca Stones reports.

Long, hot days don’t worry Indonesian town planners during Ramadan
Eighteen Indonesian town planners on a three-month AusAID-funded course at UC did not have to suffer through hot afternoons in class during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, John Martin reports.

Family’s fire tragedy retold in award-winning Documentary
Clare Young was at her boyfriend’s 21st birthday when bushfires swept through her family’s horse agistment property 10 minutes out of Canberra, on January 18, 2003. Unable to get home due to roadblocks, Clare waited while her family fought the devastating firestorm.

STORIES FROM 2005

SEARCH FOR A STORY
Use the ‘search’ function on the University homepage to search for a story.